

Today's Times, in four sections and full colour, includes a look at houses that express their owners' styles

July 10 1980

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LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
438,000

No 63,189

THE



TIMES

30p

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1988

Pay rise fears as inflation leaps to 5.7%

City and Labour attack talk of 'temporary blip'

- The surge in the inflation rate last month to 5.7 per cent has brought fears of a wage-price spiral
- Economists believe that higher inflation and deteriorating balance of payments could lead to a run on the pound
- Mr Norman Fowler said that excessive pay increases were more damaging to industry than higher interest rates
- Leading an attack on the Government's economic policy Mr Kinnock said it was "coming apart at the seams"

By David Smith and Martin Fletcher

Ministers are becoming worried about a big increase in wage claims this winter, after a jump in the inflation rate last month to 5.7 per cent — its highest for three years.

The fear is that the surge in the inflation rate — last month's increase from 4.8 to 5.7 per cent was the biggest since March 1980 — will feed

through into higher pay settlements, creating a wage-price spiral.

City economists expect the rate of inflation to move higher in the coming months, with the figure for October rising to more than 6 per cent.

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and a peak early next year of 7 per cent.

They issued a warning that the rise in inflation and Britain's deteriorating balance of payments position could produce a run on the pound.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, called for realism in pay negotiations and said that unjustified pay increases were more damaging to industry than higher interest rates.

"Today's RPI figure, reflecting the rise in mortgage interest rates, should not be used as an excuse for increased wage claims," he said. "Those who do seek wage increases to compensate for such short-term fluctuations put jobs at risk."

The index of retail prices rose by 1.1 per cent between July and August, increasing from 106.7 (1980=100) to 107.9.

Of this increase, three-quarters was due to the rise in mortgage rates from 9.75 to 11.5 per cent, effective from August 1. A further mortgage rate increase, to 13 per cent, is due to take effect from October 1.

Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said that the upturn in inflation was temporary and reflected action taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to bear down on inflation. Excluding mortgage payments, he said, the inflation rate last month was the same as the 5 per cent recorded in July.

However, higher mortgage rates appear to offer only a partial explanation for the

increase in inflation. A year ago the mortgage rate was 11.25 per cent and the inflation rate 4.4 per cent.

Strongly rising house prices and other price rises have contributed more to inflation than higher mortgage rates.

The Government's attempt to dismiss the inflation upturn as a "temporary blip" was criticized both by opposition politicians and in the City.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, led what appeared to be a co-ordinated attack by his party's spokesmen on the Government's economic policy when he claimed that it was "coming apart at the seams".

Mr John Smith, the Shadow Chancellor, described the figures as "further proof of the Government's economic mismanagement". He said that the public were "paying for Mr Lawson's errors in his foolish Budget".

The Labour spokesman said the Government had presided over public sector price increases for such commodities as water, electricity and transport of twice the old rate of inflation.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democrats' leader, said the latest economic statistics carried "an ominous warning for the competitiveness of British industry".

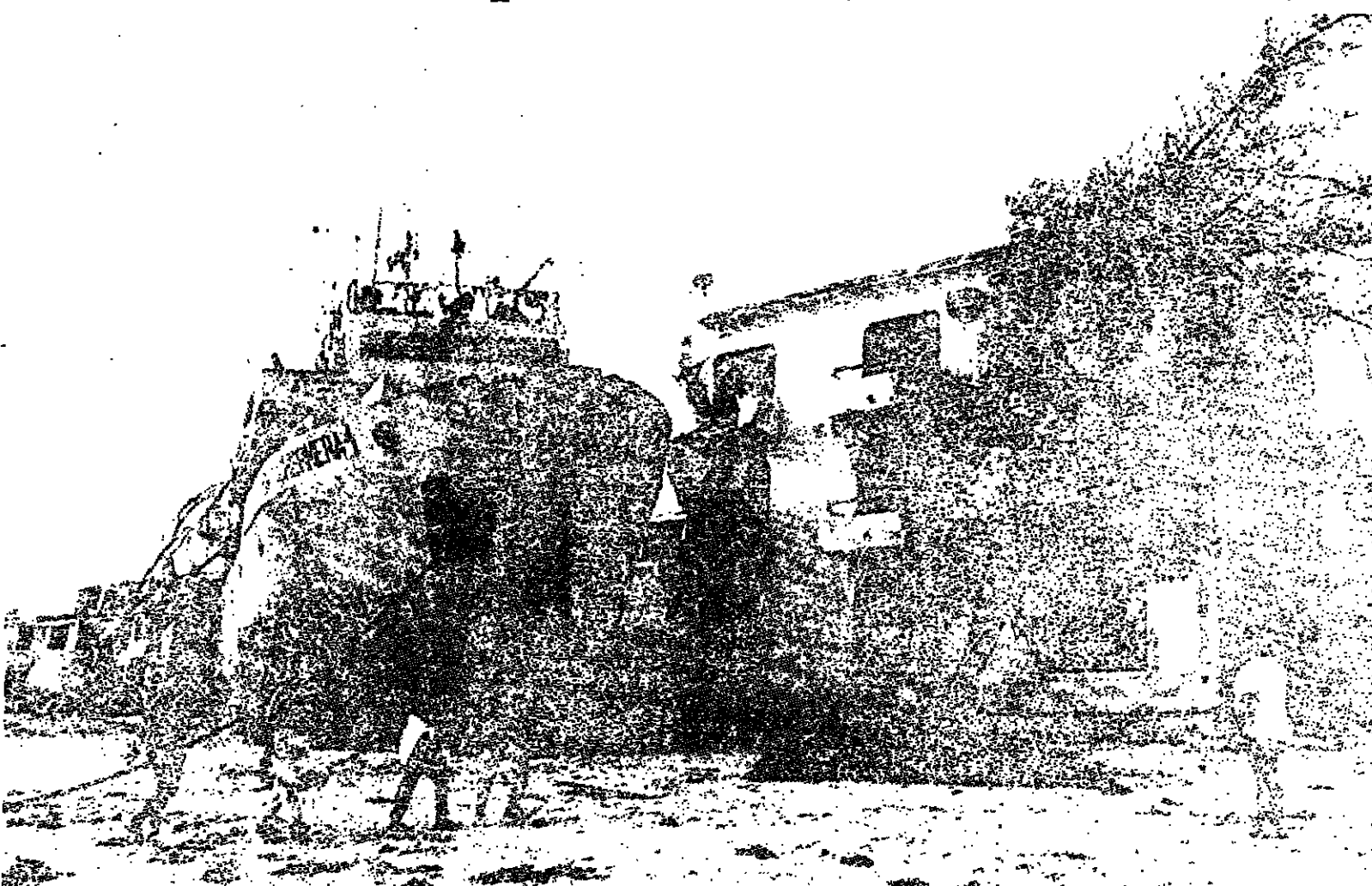
Mr Alan Beith, the Social and Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, blamed the "recklessness" of the Chancellor's Budget for the inflation rise.

"He gambled and lost," he said. "Now he wants to fiddle the figures so that mortgage payments, a huge item in many family budgets, are no longer counted as part of inflation. He must not be allowed to get away with it or shirk responsibility for the damage he has caused."

In the City, reaction to the figures was muted because of the Chancellor's warning earlier.

Continued on page 16, col 2

Hurricane dumps 300 ft ship on the doorstep



Ship to shore: Local residents viewing the 300 ft ship blown into a beachhouse at Cancun when Hurricane Gilbert swooped on the Yucatan peninsula.

British-US team uses blood of Aids carriers to fight the virus

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A British and American medical research team has collaborated in an experiment that could open the way to a new type of treatment for Aids.

The idea depends on transfusing blood serum to patients from donors who themselves have contracted the Aids virus, but who have not yet displayed any of the symptoms.

This treatment is intended to restore artificially the patient's own immune system, which has been undermined by the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, that leads to Aids. The doctors refer to the procedure as "passive immunization" of the virus.

When tested on seriously ill

patients who began to develop the disease 18 months before the start of the experiment, the transfusions produced no serious side-effects, and of severe side-effects, lasting up to six weeks.

The results are described in the current issue of *The Lancet* by Professor George Jackson, of the department of virology at the London Hospital Medical College, and colleagues from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago.

Professor Jackson said yesterday that the team was very encouraged by the successful experiment, but he stressed that all the patients were aware it was only a preliminary research project and that infusions of the specially obtained serum could only be

carried out for a short period. The infusions could not be continued.

The key to the advance lies in the choice of donors.

Donors must be free of Aids symptoms. In addition, the serum is chosen when a laboratory analysis shows that it contains a very high level of the antibodies, the protective molecules produced by the immune system when attacked, which are needed to neutralize the virus.

High concentrations of the antibodies indicate those donors whose natural defences are most effective in fighting the infection.

Professor Jackson said: "The first part of the experiment was to see if we could transfer antibodies to those individuals who had lost,

selectively, the antibodies from their plasma."

When serum was infused in patients who had developed Aids, the viruses circulating in the recipients' blood were neutralized.

The selection was done with the help of blood transfusion banks in Britain and the United States.

Although this is the first published paper, the "neutralizing antibody" approach is being tested at St Stephen's Hospital, in London.

Dr Charles Farthing said that it did look as if serum taken from early stage infection could suppress the virus in late stage cases. He believed that the treatment might be developed as an adjunct to the drug AZT.

18 more killed by storm

From Our Tampico Staff

The storm that hit the Yucatan peninsula yesterday, about 300 miles south of the border with Mexico, and US coastal plains braced for the worst storm on record.

Local radio reports from Tampico, about 300 miles south of the border with Mexico, said pounding winds and surging waves hit the coast at 8 am with the worst was still to come.

As Mexicans and Texans boarded up their homes, fled the coast or simply stayed and prayed, reports from Mexico's south-eastern Yucatan peninsula revealed that Gilbert had wreaked more havoc than at

Continued on page 16, col 5

Tote privatization study is ordered

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Tote, the national bookmaker, may be privatized, the Government revealed yesterday.

Mr John Patten, the Home Office minister, announced that he has appointed Lloyds Merchant Bank to report by early next year on ways in which it could be transferred to the private sector.

Lord Wyatt of Weeford, the Tote's chairman, is believed to be enthusiastic about the move, which would allow it to borrow capital to expand and compete with the big four bookmakers: Hills, Ladbrokes, Corals and Mecca.

A Tote spokesman said: "The Tote will make a positive response to the Home Office announcement and welcomes it."

City experts estimated last night that the Tote could be worth about £50 million. The Tote operates betting facilities at every racecourse in

Britain and has the exclusive right to operate pool betting.

It owns a chain of 120 off-course betting shops, and runs Britain's largest credit or telephone betting service.

It is also one of the single greatest contributors to the racing industry. Profits are ploughed back into racing, and last year it gave nearly £3.2 million through direct payments to racecourses, betting levies, and sponsorship.

The Horserace Totalisator Board originated in 1928, when bookmakers were felt to be making healthy profits from racing while contributing little.

Making the announcement, Mr Patten insisted that the Government recognized the special position of the Tote.

"The study will accordingly take account of the implications of privatization for the regulation of gambling and the health of horseracing."

Police who used siren 'not aware of SAS'

A possible reason why a police car siren sounded seconds before three IRA terrorists were shot by the SAS in Gibraltar was given yesterday at the inquest into the deaths.

The siren may have alerted the terrorists but the police officers who switched it on were unaware that they were less than 100 yards from the point where the IRA team was about to be arrested by the SAS.

They may have switched on

the siren to escape from heavy traffic in answering a call to return to head quarters.

Four members of the security services' surveillance team also gave evidence yesterday that they had heard the siren before the first shots were fired. One member of the team, described only as Miss J, said that it was the first time she had heard gunfire and she was "perplexed" to find herself confronted by one of the terrorists. Inquest, page 4

£3,000 tickets for Olympic opening

From Gavin Bell and John Goodbody, Seoul



The biggest security operation in Olympic history swung into action early today as crowds packed the athletics stadium in Seoul for the opening of the XXIVth Olympiad.

Mingling with 70,000 spectators at the opening ceremony were elite members of a paramilitary task force which has been deployed around the stadiums and 300 related venues to guard against terrorist attack.

Undeterred by security threats, local businessmen and overseas visitors were scrambling until the last minute to attend the ceremony in the main stadium. Tickets on the

black market were said to be changing hands for between £1,000 and £3,000.

Those fortunate, or wealthy, enough to gain admittance were being entertained by more than 12,000 dancers in traditional costumes. 1,000 fighters displaying the Korean martial art of taekwondo, and 32 sky-divers forming the Olympic emblem.

Giant video screens were set up to relay the festivities to the tens of thousands of spectators who had gathered earlier on the banks of the Han river to watch a parade of ships and mass displays of hang-gliding, water-skiing and wind-surfing.

Television executives were hoping to attract three billion viewers from virtually every country in the world, with the notable exception of North Korea, which is doing its best to pretend the Olympics are happening on another planet.

The Games promise to be the biggest and most competitive so far.

All in all, with something like 200,000 tourists in attendance, it adds up to the biggest foreign invasion of this erstwhile hermit kingdom since the 1950-53 Korean War.

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Leading article, page 11
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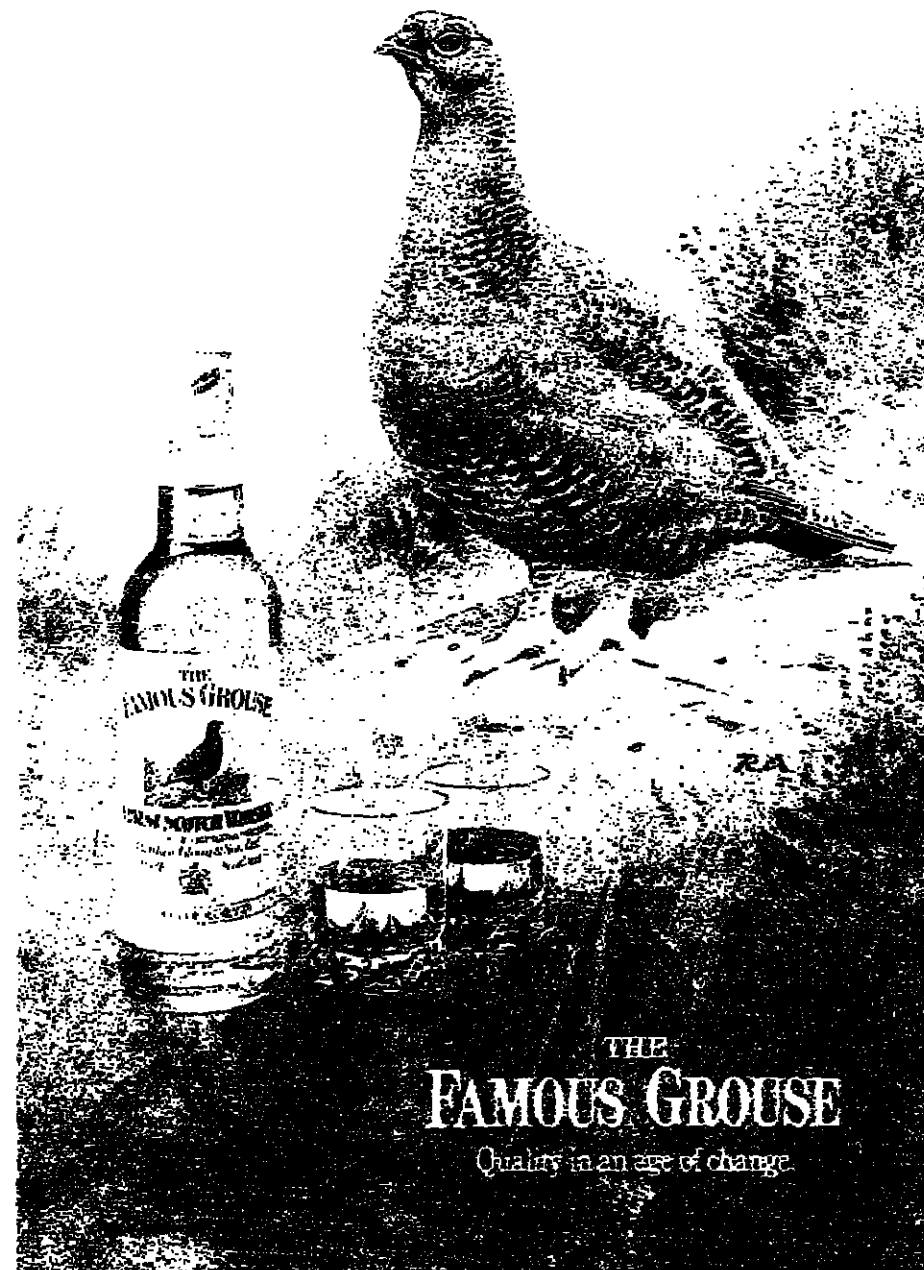
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Champions

Worcestershire won the county cricket championship for the first time since 1974 when they beat Glamorgan by an innings and 76 runs at Worcester. Page 49



THE
FAMOUS GROUSE
Quality in an age of change.

NatWest offers £25,000 reward for capture of raiders

Robbers could have fled country before police entered bank

By Ronald Faux

The armed gang that robbed a Preston bank of £250,000 on Thursday may have been out of the country by the time police entered the building and released 62 bank staff locked in a vault.

That was admitted yesterday by Lancashire police as the search for the raiders, described as dangerous and violent criminals, widened.

The National Westminster Bank has offered a reward of up to £25,000 for information leading to conviction of the robbers.

The bank also confirmed that "upwards of £250,000" was stolen in the raid. "We're still counting", an official said. During the raid the manager of the branch in Fishergate, Mr Roger Ball, aged 43, was threatened with death on many occasions. Mrs Jean Ball, his wife, who had been taken at gunpoint with their daughter Vanessa, aged 13, was bound, gagged and hooded and locked in a store-room near the bank.

She raised the alarm by smashing a window with her head and attracting attention.

When armed police burst into the bank vault they discovered the raiders had fled nearly two hours earlier. "They could have been anywhere by that time, out of the country even", a police spokesman said.

Mrs Ball said yesterday that she and her daughter were both fine. She told reporters outside the family's home in Morecambe that she had suffered little more than sore wrists.

Det Supt Barrie Walmsley, who is leading the search for the gang, said in Preston that the raid had been well planned and professionally executed.

Police believe that Mr Ball was probably being kept under observation for some weeks. The gang had picked the best time to strike and clearly had detailed knowledge of the building's security network. The raiders, probably three in number, took less than half

an hour to secure the stash, throw their haul into a vehicle parked in a side street next to the building, and escape.

Police yesterday issued descriptions of three men and an artist's impression of one of them. He was seen by a woman passer-by loading black plastic bin liners into a silver Orion vehicle parked next to the bank. Police said he was smartly dressed in a suit, was 5ft 9in tall, had a dark complexion with a Mexican-type moustache.

The other two were both described as white males in their late twenties, 5ft 9in tall, and slightly built. One had large blue-green eyes, the other blue eyes. Both are thought to have sandy coloured hair and to speak with a Liverpool accent.

The National Westminster Bank yesterday praised Mr Ball's calmness and courage in a situation which, they said, every bank manager dreaded.



Mrs Jean Ball and her daughter Vanessa recovering at home in Morecambe yesterday.

SDP meets in face of a bleak political future

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Social Democratic Party conference opens in Torquay today with the organizers not knowing whether they will have to accommodate half the 1,000 party faithful expected or twice that number. The postal strike has made calculation impossible.

The future of centre party politics is in doubt and for Dr David Owen and his two fellow MPs, Mr John Cartwright and Mrs Rosie Barnes, the crucial task over the next four days is to prove that the SDP still constitutes a political party and is not merely a fan club for the leader.

They have to confirm that they are a sufficient threat to the Social and Liberal Democrats to eventually force them into some form of accommodation on who fights which seats. Yet they cannot afford to seem obsessed with their former colleagues in the Alliance.

In 1985, the last time the SDP met in Torquay, they stood at 39 per cent in the opinion polls. This time the background is bleak for both centre parties, especially for the SDP.

In the most recent Marplan opinion poll the SDP had no more than 3 per cent support nationally, with the SLD on three times that figure. But even the 12 per cent they have between them is only half the level of support for the Alliance at the last election.

In the Kensington parliamentary by-election the SLD and the SDP polled 10.8 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, putting their combined share of the vote within 1.2 per cent of the Alliance figure at the general election. But that masked the fact that their combined vote was lower than in any by-election outside Scotland since 1979. And the SDP came within five votes of losing its deposit.

The SDP has succeeded in staying alive after the post-election year of fratricidal strife, and claims to have 30,000 members.

But with just three MPs and

200 councillors, compared with 700 at the SDP's peak, it is woefully short of public personalities to give the impetus to build.

In the local government elections this year the SDP won only 6 seats, compared with 385 for the SLD.

Many of the Council for Social Democracy, the SDP's policy making body, are newcomers of limited political experience who are unlikely to provide the debating fireworks needed to win public attention. But party organizers are anticipating tough debates on education, local government and devolution issues and incomes policy.

Mr Cartwright, the SDP president, is under fire in some sections for seeking to water down the former Alliance commitment to regional assemblies. But there is support in the SDP for scrapping that commitment in favour of giving increased power and a better defined role to existing local authorities.

Dr Owen is expected to criticize Mr Paddy Ashdown, the new SLD leader, for his expressed aim of seeking to replace Labour as the main party of opposition. He will continue to advocate an "understanding" with the SLD on electoral realities but he has ruffled SDP feathers by indicating that he might one day be prepared to take the SDP back into a Labour Party which had embraced the necessity of a nuclear defence policy.

The conference opens today with debates on education, high-speed rail links for the Channel tunnel and consumer debt. Tomorrow there will be debates on South Africa, local government, the social market and energy.

On Monday, Dr Owen will address the conference, which will also discuss tax and benefit reform, national health, the legal system and defence. The conference closes on Tuesday after further debates on Europe and violent crime and a presidential speech by Mr Cartwright.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Jockey Club not to act over Piggott

Lester Piggott, jailed last October for tax offences, will not face a disciplinary inquiry at the Jockey Club, it was announced yesterday. The Stewards have examined the records of the trial and although it was their view that Piggott may have committed acts likely to cause serious damage to the interests of racing, they decided to take no further action in the matter. The Stewards took into account that by being imprisoned Piggott was already serving a period of suspension and, with his past services to racing also recognized, the decision to take no action was made. Should Piggott decide to apply for a trainer's licence, it would be dealt with in the light of all the facts available.

Mrs Susan Piggott, his wife, who was seriously injured in a riding fall four weeks ago, returned home from hospital yesterday. She said that since her husband had been jailed she had been riding for three hours every day, and the strength she had built up had helped her recover. "I am fitter now than I was 20 years ago. It has helped", she said.

Prince hails engineers

The Prince of Wales said yesterday it was crazy that engineers in Britain were often not taken as seriously as in other countries. One of the "great secrets" of the success of many overseas companies in Britain was the availability of engineering skills and prowess, he said. The Prince was opening an American-owned electronics plant at East Kilbride, near Glasgow, set up to make components for electrical firms. Before the opening, the Prince spent nearly an hour touring the plant and talking to workers.

Post boxes unsealed

The Post Office yesterday reported a further return to work with 75 main sorting offices out of 82 and more than 125,000 employees working normally. Many post boxes will be unsealed over the weekend for the first time since the two-week dispute started. The main sorting offices in Manchester and Liverpool were still on strike last night, disrupting deliveries all over the North-west. The Post Office is insisting on introducing extra casual staff, with whom regular staff are refusing to work. Staff in Cardiff and Gwent are still on strike over the issue of casuals.

Bishop attacks Tories

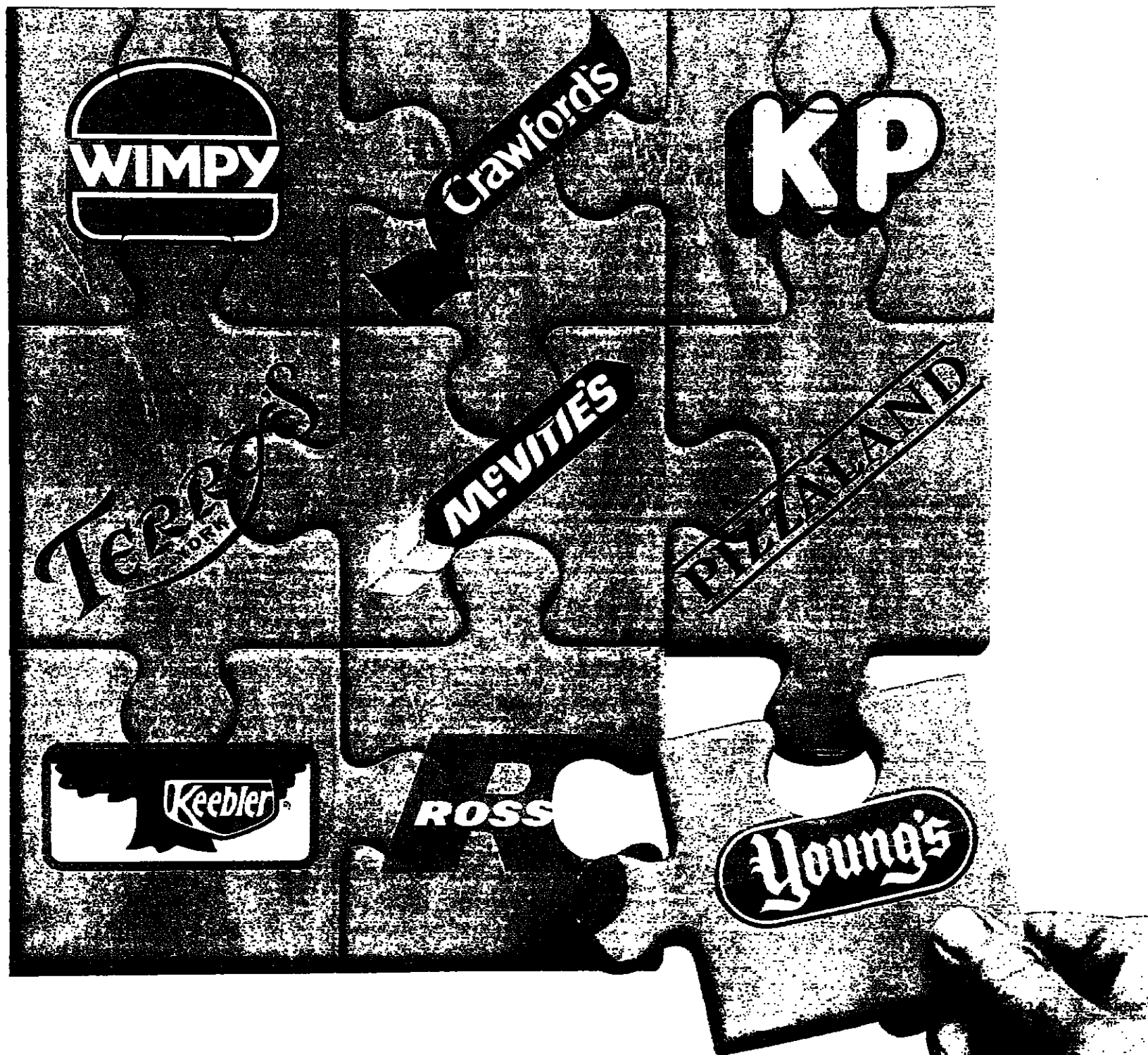
The Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, has accused the Government of being "more concerned with encouraging selfish individualism" than ensuring everyone shares fairly in the benefits of economic progress. Replying to a defence of government policy by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, in the *Church Times* last week, the bishop said public expenditure on health, education, social services and overseas aid were means by which a better and fairer society could be achieved.

TUC in peace move

The TUC is considering holding a special meeting of the general council to decide how unions should deal with the expelled electricians. Union leaders have received a circular from Congress House asking them not to take precipitate action against the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, which could grow into a recruitment war. Until the new guidelines are drawn up the trade union movement will not take any overt action in poaching EETPU members or in isolating its representatives on committees of public bodies.

Accountant jailed

An accountant who made almost 1,000 multiple applications for shares during the flotation of five companies by using fictitious names and 46 building society accounts was jailed at Southwark Crown Court, south London, yesterday. Kevin Barton, aged 35, of Terry House, Park Row, Bristol, Avon, admitted nine specimen charges of obtaining property by deception. Judge Butler, QC, jailed Barton for 12 months concurrent on each charge, with six months of the term suspended, and fined him £3,000 on each count.



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Raped student sues tour firm for £3m over hotel prowler

By Michael Horsnell

A student from Texas is to sue an American tour operator for more than £3 million for booking her into a south-east London hotel room where she was raped.

The Central Criminal Court was told yesterday of the pending legal action when a man known to police as the Prowler was jailed for 12 years.

The woman's attacker, Ian Hanford, a former soldier with the Household Cavalry from which he had been dishonourably discharged, pleaded guilty to two charges of rape, two aggravated burglaries and other charges of burglary and theft.

He had been discharged for drunkenness and stealing to pay for his drinking.

The woman, aged 18, claims the tour operator, Cultural Heritage Alliance, put her up at the London Park Hotel, at Elephant and Castle, without informing her that police were hunting a prowler there.

Her American lawyer, Mr Joe Kirkham, who attended the court yesterday, has lodged a civil lawsuit in the United States for negligence.

The court was told that Hanford, aged 27, sent police and hotel security on a "wild goose chase" for nine months between April and December last year by slipping with ease into the building, which has more than 600 rooms, to burgle and to look for women.

Mr Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said the hotel was like a "warren" with corridors and exits everywhere.

Hanford used his knowledge of the hotel to give security and police "the slip, time and time again".

When he was finally arrested police were embarrassed to discover he lived with his wife and two children opposite the hotel in Hayle's Buildings, Elliot's Row.

"Women were raped and property was stolen and for a long time police did not know who was doing it and they did not have any clues", Mr Lovell-Pank said.

"He provided around that hotel stealing while people slept or raping women when the opportunity arose."

Shortly before midnight on May 23 Hanford, who was carrying a long-bladed knife, accosted a German woman aged 51 as she was returning to her room and raped her in her bathroom.

The victim later described his manner as calm and unhurried.

Two weeks later the Texan student awoke to find him in her room.

He apologized after raping her in the shower, telling his victim: "I'm sorry it had to be you. You have a lovely body. I am an ugly person and I have to do this."

She raised the alarm but he

had slipped into the night.

The top floor had six exits.

"As a result Hanford was able to escape detection over and over again", Mr Lovell-Pank said.

He was caught on one occasion when, armed with a knife, he entered room 501 on the fifth floor where two Dutch women had just returned from a trip to Covent Garden and he said he "just wanted to talk".

One woman managed to tell hotel security on the telephone that there was a man in the room and they arrested him in the corridor as he tried to escape.

Police knew they had finally got their man but due to lack of evidence they were forced to release him. Undeterred he continued to burgle the hotel.

Other guests, including a Dutch film editor, complained that their wallets and valuables had been taken in the night.

A police investigation was launched to catch the culprit and Hanford was arrested again, finally confessing in a 70-page statement.

He told detectives: "I go into the hotel to burgle. I've had a lot of money out of it."

"I take a knife in case of trouble and if I see a woman on her own I rape her."

Mr Justice Gatehouse told him: "You are clearly a dangerous menace. The public must be protected from you for a long time."

Montarella tilts at the big top



fooling around on the high wire is Montarella, one of the many women attending a masterclass for clowns at Hay-on-Wye castle, Powys, in honour of Joey Grimaldi. Montarella, otherwise Kate Verney, aged 27, is from Bristol, and has a daughter aged three months. She was a street juggler in Barcelona before training as an acrobat at Gerry Cottle's Circus School.

Ryan's gun club hands in an arsenal

By David Sapsted

An array of illegal firearms, including a grenade launcher, 32 machine-guns and several smoke bombs, was handed to police yesterday by the gun club which sold Michael Ryan a gun he used to kill 16 people and wound 14 others in last year's Hungerford massacre.

An arsenal of more than 170 weapons was delivered to Wiltshire police under the Government's September amnesty by the Tunnel Rifle and Pistol Club in Devizes. Ryan, a member, bought the

M1 carbine, which he used during the attack, at the club for £150.

Wiltshire police said: "We are glad to receive any weapons but the size of this particular surrender surprised us."

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday labelled as "extreme" the view of Mr James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, that the armed forces, the police and those controlling the countryside should be the only people allowed to possess firearms.

The handover by the Devizes gun club was one of the largest submission of weapons received by the police since the start of the gun amnesty at the beginning of this month. More than 10,000 firearms have so far been handed in.

Mr David Barnard, director of the club, said the weapons had been accumulated over a number of years through auctions and sales. "It is up to people like us to lead the way. We are not in any way responsible for people like Ryan, but we felt we had to take a stand."

MONDAY



● All next week, The Times publishes exclusive extracts from *The Letters of T.S. Eliot* — the most eagerly anticipated literary event of the year.

● In the 23 years since the death of this vital figure of 20th-century English literature, no publication of his correspondence has been permitted.

● Now the first volume of his letters, edited by his widow, Valerie Eliot, reveals fascinating new insights into the years between his arrival in London and the publication of *The Waste Land* — years in which he struggled to establish both a career and his first marriage.

● On Monday: a portrait of the artist as a young bank clerk.

● Valerie Eliot interview: page 35

● On Monday: a portrait of the artist as a young bank clerk.

● Valerie Eliot interview: page 35

Ramblers step up campaign to save paths

By Alan Franks

The Ramblers' Association, which is campaigning for improved access to the countryside, is holding a Forbiden Britain Day tomorrow with a series of rallies to demonstrate the threats to rights of way from barbed wire or the plough.

The aim of the rallies, one of the largest pedestrian protests since the mass trespass movements of the 1930s, is to draw attention to the rapid loss of footpaths throughout Britain.

Several thousand of the association's 62,000 members are expected to join at least one leg of the 17 area marches. It is estimated that of 135,000 miles of pedestrian rights of way in England and Wales, more than half have disappeared or become unusable.

Leading article, page 11
Outdoor Leisure, page 60

Arts Council appeal on broadcasting

By Andrew Billen, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council yesterday launched an eleven-hour attempt to preserve arts programming on independent television and radio, six weeks before the Government is expected to publish its White Paper.

In its submission to the Home Office, the council calls for the new structure of television to "make provision for maintaining and improving arts programme quality".

Although it stops short of asking for the next broadcasting Bill to oblige franchise holders to provide arts programmes, Mr Luke Rittner, secretary general of the council, said yesterday that he expected some members to press for such a clause when the White Paper was published.

The council is heading for a clash with Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, over his plans for three new national independent radio stations.

Mr Hurd intends selling the franchises to the highest bidder with the stipulation that each station must provide a mixed range of broadcasting. There is no proposal to stop the three from providing the same mix.

The submission calls for the plans to be reconsidered and for the establishment of a separate arts network.

Turning to television, the council implies that Lord Rees-Mogg's Broadcasting Standards Council, which is to be concerned with taste and decency, will be no bulwark against deteriorating programme standards.

The Government will be relieved, however, that the paper goes on to make the case for a deregulated market being able to provide high quality cultural programmes, presumably by going for specific markets.

Mr Rittner said he believed a free market in television would provide for minority programmes such as *The South Bank Show*.

Echoing government thinking in other respects, the submission calls for the rules on arts programme sponsorship to be relaxed and brought in line with those for sport. It welcomes a locally based fifth channel and urges a more speedy implementation of the 25 per cent quota of independent made programmes on BBC and ITV.

In a pointed attack on the entertainment unions, it decries restrictive practices in relaying live arts events and calls for residual payment to artists on overseas sales to be lowered.

It also reiterated the need for independent television's regional structure to be preserved.

● An attempt to block the Royal Opera House's £100 million redevelopment scheme for the Covent Garden conservation area is to be heard in the Court of Appeal on Monday.

The Covent Garden Community Association is seeking a court order quashing the scheme on the ground that Westminster City Council had abused its powers in approving it.

Children thrown off balcony

A woman was in a secure unit at a psychiatric hospital near Bristol yesterday after her two infant children were thrown from the balcony of a twelfth floor council flat in Kingsdown, Bristol.

Police who went to the flat found that Mrs Tasneen Dawood, aged 27, the mother, had slashed her wrists and arms, although Mr Al Karim Dawood, aged 27, her husband, had succeeded in preventing her from throwing herself from the balcony.

Police named the children, as Haafiz, aged 13 days, who was found dead in the car park into which he fell, and Naeed, his brother, aged two, who died later in hospital.

Eyewitnesses described seeing first a white bundle and then an orange one hurled

from the balcony, landing feet apart "like mangled rag dolls". Mrs Miriam Eldridge, who alerted the police, said: "I will never get over it. It was heartbreaking. It was the kind of sight that stays with you for the rest of your life."

Mrs Sheila Bassett said: "There was a terrible commotion, and next thing the two babies were hurled over the balcony. I ran over and picked up the tiny baby in my arms. There was nothing I could do but cradle it and wait. It was breathing its last."

Police Constable Carl Cannon and Police Constable Paul Tucker managed to revive the older boy with the kiss of life in an ambulance taking him to Bristol Royal Infirmary. He was later transferred under police escort to the head

injuries unit at Frenchay Hospital, where he died.

Their mother was held initially at Southmead Hospital in Bristol before being transferred to a secure unit at the Barrow Gurney Hospital, near the city.

The transfer to the psychiatric hospital was "on medical advice", Inspector Graham Cawley, of Avon and Somerset Police said.

She had been treated for arm and wrist injuries and was in a "satisfactory" condition. It was unlikely she would be interviewed during the next few days.

The family, Asians from Africa, had come to stay with Mrs Gulshan Ratanshi, the woman's mother, for the birth of the second child.

Golden Giant in Britain

Diamond may fetch £30m

The biggest diamond offered for public sale paid a flying visit to Christie's London offices yesterday.

The flawless 407-carat gem, nicknamed the Golden Giant for its honey colour, is second in size only to the Cullinan I, part of the Crown Jewels.

M. Francois Curiel, Christie's diamond auctioneer, is accompanying the stone on its high-security tour of the world's sales capitals. He declines to estimate what it is likely to fetch in New York on October 19, although £30 million has been mentioned.

"There simply has never been anything on the market to compare with this", he said. "It has magnificent colour and the shield shape is unusual, but it's the sheer size that makes it special."

At more than 2in long, the 65-faceted diamond snugly fits the palm of the average hand and its 2.87 ounces weight is little more than a large hen's egg. It is nearly five times the size of the biggest



The diamond towers over a 50p piece, in more ways than one diamond yet auctioned, which fetched £5,590,000 last April. "Whoever buys the stone will be entitled to give it their name, and thus buy themselves a certain immortality", Mr Curiel said.

The joint owners of the Golden Giant, Marvin Samuels and Louis Glick, the New York jewellery dealers, and the Zale retail chain, bought the diamond rough in 1984 when it weighed 890 carats. It took a master jeweller three years to discover the gem's optimal shape — achieving the largest possible size while eradicating every flaw.

Mr Curiel says there has never been a better time to sell. After last October's stock market crash investors wanted something rock solid.

Goldfinger jailed for £1m theft

Harvey Michael Ross, the gold dealer who admitted 25 offences of theft involving £1.5 million, was yesterday jailed for 14 years.

His champagne lifestyle with fast cars and aeroplanes was financed with money which investors placed with him as a financial consultant, Mr Michael Harrison, QC, told Leeds Crown Court.

Ross, aged 39, formerly of Alwoodley Lane, Leeds, who fled the country in 1986 and was later extradited from Uruguay, asked for a further 143 offences to be considered.

Mr Harrison told the court that 721 private investors were involved — and £5.5 million was unaccounted for. Proceedings against Ross, who operated Harvey Michael Investments from offices in St Paul's Street, Leeds, and was known locally as Goldfinger, began in June 1987. He was extradited from Montevideo.

Mr Harrison said the 25 counts reflected only those facts which were disclosed before the Uruguayan court and Ross had admitted the theft of £1.5 million.

He had eight employees, but they were kept in the dark about what was going on. Ross gave the impression that he was a workaholic, turning up early in the morning.

It was not until the end that staff began to suspect clients' money was being misused. Staff and clients were taken in by the surroundings and the manner in which Ross operated. His office had high-technology fittings and gave the impression of successful financial deals.

Husband cleared of assault

A bus driver was cleared yesterday of assaulting a vicar who was having an affair with his wife.

Mr Jon Clive Crawshaw, aged 46, a cathedral sidesman, denied attacking the Rev Ian Hollin as the married clergyman visited Mrs Dagmar Crawshaw.

The prosecution claimed Mr Crawshaw had punched and kicked Mr Hollin 25 times and left him battered and bruised in the front garden of

Mrs Crawshaw's home last September. Exeter Crown Court was told that Mr Hollin was in charge of church music at Exeter Cathedral and Mrs Crawshaw, aged 39, worked in the cathedral bookshop.

Mrs Crawshaw met Mr Hollin early in 1985 and the two became lovers within two months. In January 1986 Mr Crawshaw found love letters from the vicar to his wife at their home in Budleigh Salterton, Devon. However,

the two refused to admit they were having an affair.

When the church authorities first confronted Mr Hollin, he denied he was seeing Mrs Crawshaw. Later, after confessing to the affair, he was forced to resign from his church position.

Mr Crawshaw said he was in Exeter helping his new girlfriend decorate her home when the alleged assault took place.

Otters likely to catch 'seal plague'

By David Nicholson-Lord

One of Britain's leading experts on mammals said yesterday it was "very likely" that otters would catch the canine distemper virus that has killed 11,000 seals in the North Sea. The result could be a disaster.

Dr Don Jefferies, a scientist with the Nature Conservancy Council, was speaking as researchers from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology began their survey of more than 1,000 otters in Shetland, Britain's biggest population, to see if the virus could be transferred from seals.

It was believed there were no previous

recorded instances of this, but there is considerable anecdotal evidence from other hunts, disbanded 11 years ago, of outbreaks of canine distemper among otters. It was apparently caught from hounds, most recently in the 1930s, Dr Jefferies said. The otter's curiosity could also add to the risk, for it might investigate dead or dying seals.

Dr Jefferies, mammals adviser at the NCC and an Otter Trust council member, said the chance of otters catching the distemper from seals was highest off the northern and western coasts of Scotland which, with Ireland, contained some of the best other populations in western

Europe. In such areas as Shetland and the Western Isles, the otter lives more of a marine than a freshwater existence, swimming from freshwater lochs to the sea and feeding alongside seals.

"There is very little action we can take. A vaccine is available but the snag with otters is that you can't catch them. The otter is a very individual animal. He won't come to bait: he doesn't eat carrion."

The risk of the virus spreading south to lowland river areas is less, paradoxically, because numbers have been reduced by pollution, leaving the animals comparatively isolated.

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"We can do 10 mph on a good stretch of motorway", Mr Alan Massey, the driver, said. "We did 23 miles on Monday. We've had one bloke

(Photograph: Mark Pepper)

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

"If we have been forced to make a choice between cancelling a domestic service or an international service we have

He added: "It would quickly rebound on them because the Scottish business community is very close-knit and I am sure the effect would be to turn people off all their ser-

● Dan-Air is to start services between Gatwick and Manchester and Aberdeen and Manchester from October 23.

By Sheila Gunn and Richard Owen

The unprecedented visit is part of a purge intended to weed out at next year's elec-

In the 1984 Euro elections only 31.6 per cent of Britons

Mr Bob Lacey, another banker, expects a tougher time defending the Conservative majority of 4,853 from

The Conservatives have not yet chosen a candidate for the Highlands and Islands, held by Mrs Winnie Ewing for the Scottish Nationalists.

By David Walker

Mr Mather wants more dramatic progress. "With the exception of the armed forces, police and security services, which exercise direct power over the liberty of individual citizens, it is difficult to suggest that there is a simple dividing line between services which could be contracted out and those which must remain in government."

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Those figures take no account of the many unlisted buildings which are swept away each year unrecorded, Miss Sophie Andreae, the organization's chairman, says

The threat has grown re-

The report, by Gillian Darley, is lavishly illustrated, and provides examples of successful restoration and conversion, as well as some of the ugly efforts and decay and dereliction. Among its recommendations are that valuable added tax should be removed or reduced on repairs to historic buildings, and that local authorities should use their statutory powers to pro-

● The closing date for applications from farmers to take part in the Government's "set-aside" scheme for taking arable land out of production, to reduce food surpluses, is being extended from September 30 to October 21.

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Mr Ian Stewart, head of Savills' country residential department, writing in the autumn issue of the company's magazine, says there has been an underlying confidence all this year which "was briefly stirred but not shaken" in the winter months last year.

Regional price increases recorded by Savills since the beginning of the year are 23 per cent in East Anglia, 30 per cent in the Home Counties, 35 per cent west of London (from Oxfordshire and Hampshire to Cornwall),

The agents have identified three groups of purchasers prepared to pay these prices.

Third are the super-rich who have sufficient capital not to worry about income levels or the final price of their perfect property.

By Emma Wilkins


However, provisions in the Data Protection Act may be extended to stop the tide of unwanted advertisements.

The cost of sending a fax message is the same as an ordinary telephone call.

When Grandfather bailed out over the Ruhr, the injuries he sustained were terrible. If the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund hadn't remembered him in his hour of need, who else would?

other ways in which the Fund contributes to the well being of those who have an hour of need. We urgently need your support to repay the debt we owe those who have suffered on our behalf. All donations will be gratefully received. We'll also be happy to advise on legacies, covenants and payroll giving. Please complete the coupon now.

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Alders, Argos, Asda, Boots, Index (The Catalogue Shop), Comet (also in Debenhams), Co-Op Stores, Curry's, Electricity Board Shops, Harrods, House of Fraser Stores, Rumbelows, Selfridges, Underwoods. Mail Order Catalogues Brion Mills, Burlington, Freemans, Grotton, Janet Fraser, John Moore, Littlewoods, Next Directory, Peter Craig. Plus your usual Philips Retailer.

^a % of carbonized part of product.

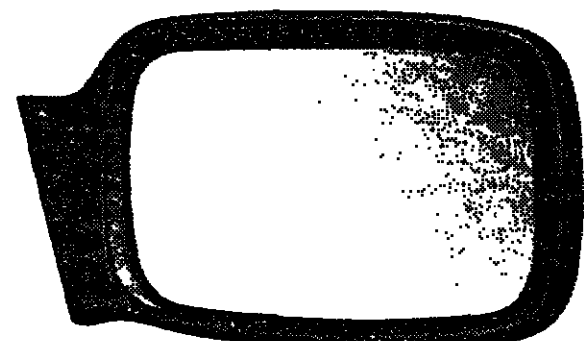
Once again Ford are improving the Orion.

As you can see, some of the most popular options in the catalogue are now being made standard. Not only that, but we're also introducing the 1.3 HCS (High Compression Swirl) petrol engine.

Some models will now have variable-rate steering, lighter for parking but not too light on the open road.

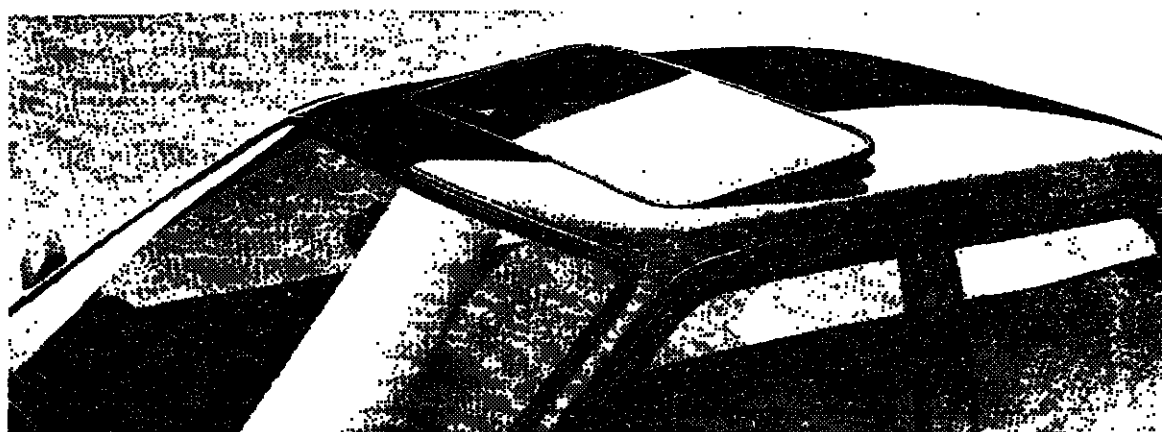
There are several new colours to choose from. And there are some smart new interior trims.

These new Orions are at Ford dealers now, along with the latest Escorts and Sierras. So why not call in and see them?



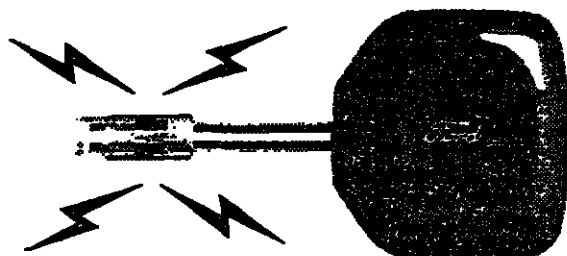
Power mirrors. Previous option price £75*. Not any more. They're standard on the Orion GL. So now you can adjust both mirrors at the flick of a switch.

*Maximum retail price at August 15th 1988.



Sunroof. Previously £390* as an option. Now it's standard even on the Orion L. So all we need now is some sun!

Electric front windows. Previously £250* as an option. Now they're standard on the Orion GL.

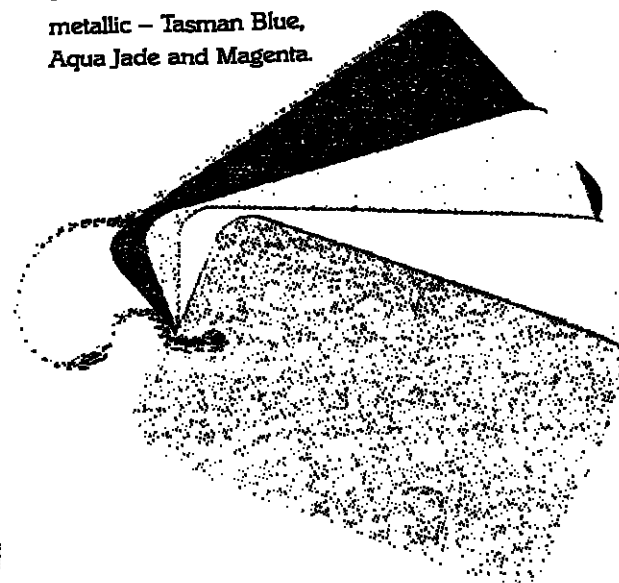


Central locking. Once it could have cost £275*. Now it's standard on the Orion LX. So now when you lock your door you won't forget to lock your boot.

New trim. Every model in the Orion range gets new trim. So it's just as smart inside as out.



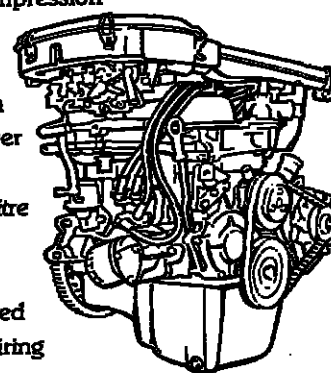
New colours. Four smart new colours are now available. One solid - Radiant Red, and three metallic - Tasman Blue, Aqua Jade and Magenta.



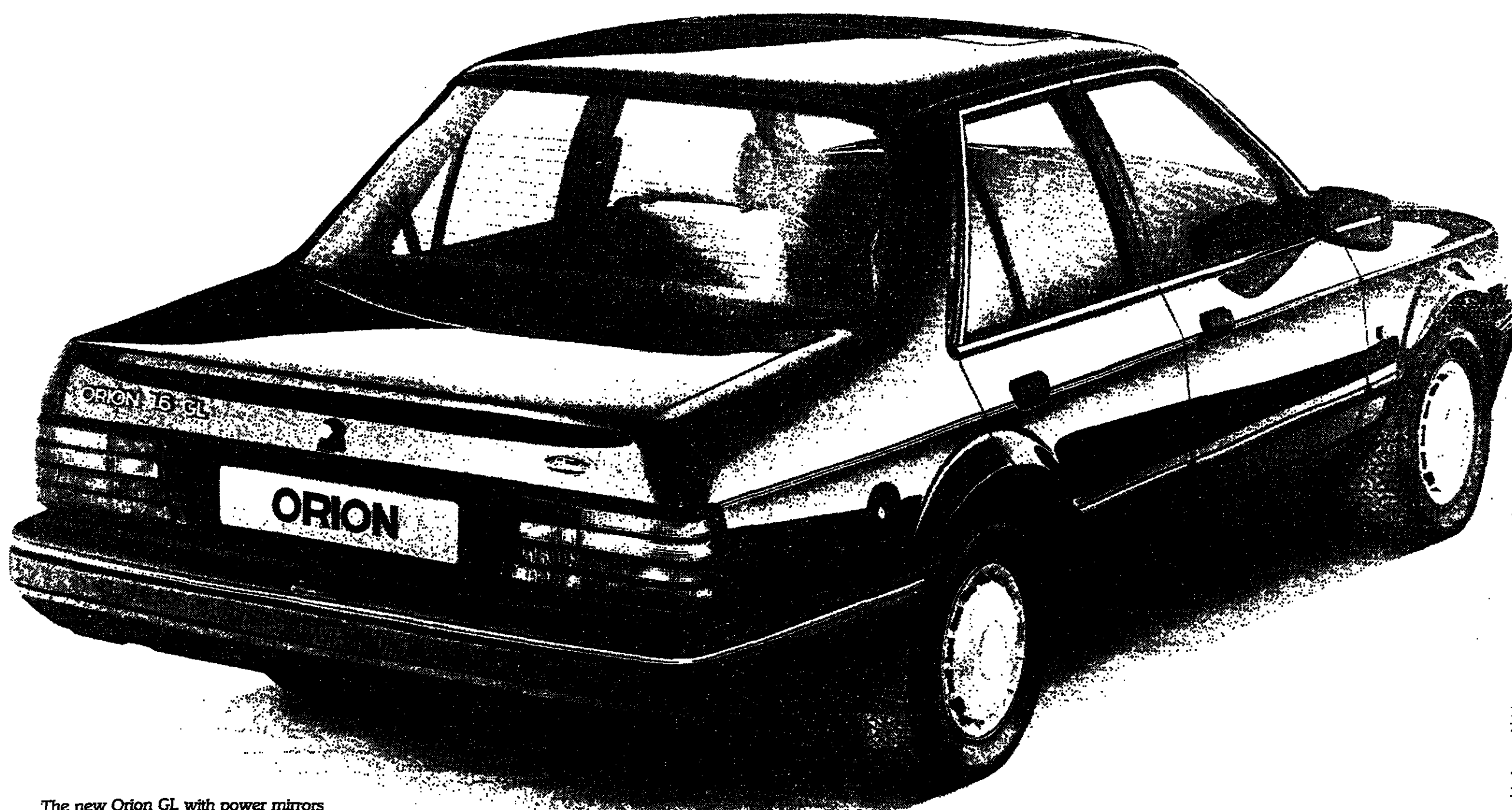
1.3 HCS petrol engine.

New High Compression Swirl cylinder technology and electronic ignition brings more power and greater efficiency to 1.3 litre Orions.

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Campaign trail of yoghurt, fruit and the jogger's 'high'

From Charles Bremner
Los Angeles

At 7.30 am they're handing round the mineral water aboard the Sky Pig, along with the yoghurt and fruit. Fresh from the yoghurt walk, Governor Dukakis buckles into the front row of his campaign Boeing for the 400th time this year. The chartered 737 is old and noisy, but the frugal governor says he will keep it because it has brought him luck.

Down in the back, the secret servicemen are stowing their Smith and Wessons for the five-hour flight, and the stewardesses are fussing over the real VIPs on board - Sam Donaldson and the other network news stars, who enjoy the power of king-makers in

this television-driven election. And above the whine of the starting engines comes the tick-tacking of the laptop computers as reporters, unbothered by a three-hour night, spring into action.

It is all a far cry from the road life of the old-style campaign - the age that ended in the 1972 election - a raucous free-for-all chronicled like a Fielding novel by Timothy Crouse in *The Boys on the Bus*.

"They used to have the Bloody Marys at the door," laments one veteran from the days, when the road meant multiplying the fatigue with a blitzkrieg of hangovers, poker games and confessions from the candidates at late-night drinking sessions.

Nowadays, your best chance of an off-guard word from an emo-

tional candidate is to put on your Nikes and catch him under the influence of his jogger's "high". To the disgust of some old soldiers, the new breed reports do precisely that.

The high spirits, the "giddy camaraderie mixed with fear and low-grade hysteria", that Crouse described, faded when the Water-gate scandal turned American journalists into guardians of the nation's rectitude.

Gone, too, are the dalliances on the road. In the monogamous eighties, few observe the old operating rule of the campaign circus: "Wheels up, rings off".

It is all the fault, say the old hands, of technology. For a start, no one can get away with bashing out a few lines on the Olivetti and

shouting them over an airport phone in some far-flung stopover.

Equipped with miniature everything, the new peons on the bus are walking communications centres. Look down the aisle and you see a sea of hunched figures mumbling into cell phones or talking via satellite live to their breakfast shows. Others are silently transcribing the candidate's quotes from their mini-cassettes.

Robert Novak, the veteran columnist put it recently: "The thing that kills me, is these guys just sit there with things in their ears all the time."

Most of all, the new technology has shaped the whole style of campaigning. Most Americans still believe Mr Bush and the Massachusetts governor are cross-

ing the continent on a modern version of the old whistle-stop. But, if there was an element of such old "retail politicking" in the primaries, it has given way to the made-for-TV campaign.

"Interaction" with live crowds only detracts from the day's video-message. Hecklers can stop the carefully crafted sound-bite from making it on the evening news. Very, very few voters now see the candidates as they land in their security cocoon and drive along sealed-off roads to each stage-managed appearance.

Advance staff choose the backdrop that will best "impact" the viewing voter. Noble sea and mountainscapes are effective, particularly with patriotic symbols such as the Statue of Liberty in the

background. Lately, to allay the wimp issue, both candidates have been jumping on and off an array of macho hardware. Mr Bush has a preference for earth-moving vehicles. Mr Dukakis upstaged him this week with an outing in the turret of the latest M-1 battle tank.

For that brief video-shot, the campaign flew us to Pontiac, Michigan, drove us for an hour and stationed us in a field while the diminutive governor was driven at hair-raising speed towards the cameras, clutching the machine-gun and going "rat-at-tat-tat". He said a few words to a crowd of executives before we all flew out again.

Two days later, it was off to Los Angeles with a 20-minute stop in Wyoming during which the gov-

ernor posed on a mountainside in Yellowstone Park.

As the White House race has entered the final straight, the image-makers have been keeping their men almost incommunicado. Mr Bush, prone to gaffes, was never very accessible. Now he rarely ventures off the cuff. The articulate Mr Dukakis used to tackle any questions. Now he is secluded behind a curtain on the Sky Pig and his staff have rationed his "press availabilities" to a few minutes every few days.

The candidates' image-crafters have devised a new form of press event.

It lasts about 15 seconds, during which cameras may pan once across the room, and it is known as the "media spray".

Massachusetts miracle is dismissed as 'a mirage'

Washington (Reuters) - Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis are duelling over the economy, the main bread-and-butter issue that could determine which man makes it to the White House.

Even though the economy is relatively strong, with unemployment at 5.6 per cent, opinion polls show consistently that voters in the November 8 election are unsure about their financial future and the length of the current prosperity.

The 1981-1982 recession after President Reagan took office has left bitter memories for many people. It was the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Mr Dukakis has argued that while many people

have jobs they are not high-paying ones and more families now must have two breadwinners to survive.

Mr Dukakis was campaigning yesterday in California, the most populous US state, where Vice-President Bush spent two days before going on to Ohio. While in San Fran-



cisco, Mr Bush belittled the Democratic presidential nominee's claims as Governor of Massachusetts to have revived his state's economy from one with antiquated textile and shoe factories that shut down, to one of low

unemployment from new high technology industries.

A year ago Mr Dukakis was a relatively unknown Governor nationally, but he had received high marks among fellow governors for his management of state affairs. He rode his way to the Democratic nomination proclaiming he had created a "Massachusetts miracle" of economic development.

Mr Bush ridiculed him, saying it was no miracle but a "Massachusetts mirage". The assault was designed to get voters to think twice about Mr Dukakis's stewardship as Governor.

Mr Bush, whose lead in some polls is slipping, has constantly attacked Mr Dukakis for not having any national or foreign affairs

experience. His Democratic rival retorted that Mr Bush has never run a government, although his resume is long on national jobs.

Mr Bush said Massachusetts ranks 40th out of 50 states in job growth and has lost 26,000 manufacturing jobs since 1983. "The fact is, the so-called Massachusetts miracle is really the Massachusetts mirage," Mr Bush told the Commonwealth Club of California.

Mr Dukakis has attacked Mr Bush repeatedly on economic issues. On the way to California in Yellowstone National Park, he answered Mr Bush, saying: "I'm very proud of what we have done." He said that Massachusetts had only 3 per cent unemployment.

Bush still holding on to lead in polls

By Robert Worcester

The latest flurry of opinion polls on the American presidential election show Vice-President George Bush holding on to his lead over Mr Michael Dukakis.

The last four polls, taken during or after the Labour Day weekend, show an average 53 per cent to 47 per cent Republican lead, and all four are within a 3 per cent margin of error.

Four earlier polls showed a wider Bush lead and two, by Harris and ABC/Washington Post, taken just before Labour Day, showed Mr Bush leading Mr Dukakis by 60 per cent to 40 per cent.

If the American election had ended instead of started as it traditionally does on Labour Day, the first Monday in September, Mr Bush would have been elected by an overwhelming 280-vote lead over Mr Dukakis in the electoral college, 409 to 129, more than double the 270 needed to win the presidency, based on a uniform "swing".

For all that, America, like Britain, has a first-past-the-post system of voting. It is, like Britain, elects by "consti-

tuency", in America by state, with each state allocated a number of electoral votes proportionate to its population, plus two.

On the margin of 52 per cent to 48 per cent shown in the polls earlier, and on a uniform "swing", neither by any means conclusive, then most states would fall to Mr Bush.

The closeness of the race to

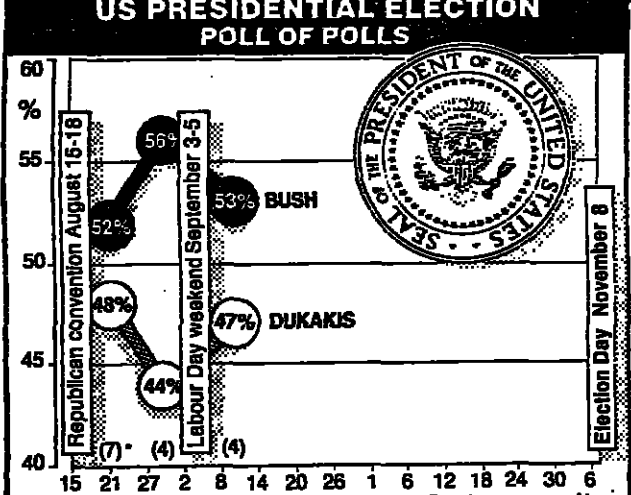


Figure in parentheses give number of individual polls averaged. Compiled by MORI with the assistance of AEI's Public Opinion Magazine. Sources: Gallup, Harris, Vanderbilt, Black, CBS/New York Times, ABC/Washington Post, NBC/USA, LA Times.

mentors expect this election to be a close-run thing. Mr John Deardourf, the Republican political consultant, puts the core support for Vice-President Bush at between 38 per cent and 40 per cent, identifying affluent Americans, evangelicals and veterans and their families as his main base.

On the other hand, the Dukakis coalition of between 30 per cent and 32 per cent is composed mainly of blacks (12 per cent of the American electorate), Jewish voters, Hispanics and trade union members. This leaves between 25 per cent and 30 per cent of voters as the "floaters" who will determine the outcome.

Mr Deardourf identifies four out of five of these "floaters" as "Reagan Democrats" who, asked which party they support, respond as Democrats, but who none the less voted for Mr Reagan. They are strong on national defence and weak on civil rights for minority groups.

Robert Worcester is chairman of MORI. His analyses of the election will be appearing regularly in The Times and are compiled with the assistance of Public Opinion Magazine.

Princess salutes special horseback skill



The Princess Royal presenting a souvenir rosette to a disabled child after seeing her demonstrate her horseback skills at a public riding school in Hong Kong yesterday. The Princess is on a four-day visit to the colony before flying on to Seoul.

From Gavin Bell
Seoul

A few days ago the crew of Korean Air flight 906 entered Soviet airspace with a silent prayer and a brief radio message: "Good evening, Leningrad control."

Flight 906 was the first from South Korea to fly over the Soviet Union since a Korean airliner was shot down by Soviet fighter aircraft five years ago.

As the message was transmitted, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea was chatting to Soviet diplomats at a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet in Seoul. The exchange was the first of its kind since the Russian mission withdrew in 1904.

With the coming of the Olympic Games, this fiercely anti-communist nation is suddenly inundated with senior officials, athletes and artists from the Eastern bloc. Bolstered by growing economic power and political self-confidence, Seoul is getting a sympathetic response to its quest for trade and diplomatic ties with its ideological opponents.

Olympics opening door for Seoul to East-bloc trade

This week, Hungary made the first political move by agreeing to exchange permanent missions. Hungary was also the first Eastern-bloc nation to accept its invitation to the Olympics, and the first to set up a trade office.

Yugoslavia has established similar commercial ties, and Poland, Czechoslovakia and perhaps East Germany are expected to follow suit. The biggest prizes still being pursued are China and the Soviet Union, North Korea's principal supporters.

Trade is the leading edge of South Korea's foreign policy, and forms the subject of many behind-the-scenes meetings with Soviet and Chinese envoys.

"We don't talk about politics, we only talk about business," a South Korean official

said. "But we both know that the relationship is about politics as well as business."

Peking and Moscow are keen to expand trade exchanges, but for the moment neither is in any hurry to alter the political complexion of the Korean peninsula by formally recognizing the South.

Trade with China is expected to reach a total of \$1.8 billion this year, but the Chinese have hesitated to open an official trade office. Commerce with Moscow is at a much lower level, but a Soviet Foreign Ministry official with temporary consular status for the Games has been meeting Korean trade officials.

Watching these developments with considerable alarm and some anger is North Korea's implacably hostile regime in Pyongyang.

South Korean euphoria may thus be premature, but progress is clearly being made towards opening new markets and simultaneously eroding powerful Eastern-bloc support for North Korea.

Diplomats say China and the Soviet Union are not yet contemplating any radical changes in their strategic security relationships in the region, but their new trade ties may help to persuade Pyongyang to moderate its posture.

The optimistic view is that, faced with South Korea's growing economic and military power and its own increasing isolation, Pyongyang may be forced eventually to compromise with Seoul.

But, diplomats said, such a thaw was unlikely as long as North Korea remained in the iron grip of Mr Kim Il Sung.

The pace of change on the divided peninsula is still glacially slow, but government officials and business executives in Seoul believe that time - and economic strength - are on their side.

Leading article, page 11

WORLD ROUNDUP

British newsmen in China fracas

Peking - Two British journalists have been expelled from the north-western province of Xinjiang, where they were reportedly assaulted by Chinese police wielding electric truncheons. Back in Peking yesterday, they denied claims that they had not received permission to visit the city of Kashgar (Catherine Sampson writes).

Tim Luard, of the BBC, and Andrew Higgins, of *The Independent*, were detained on arrival in Kashgar from the regional capital of Urumqi on Monday night. They said Chinese police confiscated their passports and cameras, destroyed their film, and took them to a hostel, where they were told they were not to be left alone. When the two journalists refused to let their guards share a room with them, they were attacked.

Later, when they left the hotel on their own, police reportedly ran after them and jabbed at them with electric truncheons. A passing Swiss woman tourist was also struck. The journalists complained to police, and have reported their treatment to the British Embassy in Peking. There have been recent rumours of Muslim unrest in Xinjiang.

Canadian reshuffle

Ottawa - Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, announced Cabinet changes on Thursday, in what appeared a prelude to a November poll (John Best writes). Those affected include Mr George Hees, the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, aged 78, who is leaving politics to become an adviser to Mr Mulroney.

Mr John Wise, who resigned as Agriculture Minister, was replaced by Mr Donald Mazankowski, the Deputy Prime Minister. The reshuffle covered nine ministries in all and included the introduction of two new portfolios.

The patient pontiff

Manzini, Swaziland (Reuters) - King Mswati III of Swaziland yesterday kept Pope John Paul waiting for 20 minutes when the pontiff went to visit him in his modern palace between the capital, Mbabane, and the airport.

The Pope was left sitting in a limousine outside the gates. Swazis said that lateness of this kind was actually considered a sign of respect. Earlier the pontiff spoke out against a sign of respect. Earlier the pontiff spoke out against a sign of respect. Earlier the pontiff spoke out against a sign of respect.

Howe to meet Iraqis

Dar es Salaam - Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will see Mr Sadoun Hammedi, the Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, soon after the end of his African tour and Foreign Affairs. He will tell him that Britain wants an independent inquiry into will tell him that Britain wants an independent inquiry into will tell him that Britain wants an independent inquiry into.

The meeting had already been arranged to discuss the Iran-Iraq ceasefire. But since then the United States has announced that it was convinced the chemical weapons allegations were true.

Gorbachov offers seven-point Asia-Pacific peace proposal

Moscow (AP) - Here are the seven foreign policy proposals on the Asia-Pacific region made yesterday by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, in his speech in Krasnoyarsk, as summarized by the Soviet news agency Tass.

● First: "Aware of the Asian and Pacific countries' concern, the Soviet Union will not increase the amount of any nuclear weapons in the region - it has already been practising this for some time - and is calling upon the United States and other nuclear powers not to deploy them additionally in the region."

● Second: "The Soviet Union is inviting the main naval powers of the region to hold consultations on non-increase in naval forces in the region."

● Third: "The USSR is suggesting that the question of lowering military confrontation in the areas where the

coasts of the USSR, the PRC (People's Republic of China), Japan, the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), and South Korea converge be discussed on a multilateral basis, with a view to freeing and commensurately lowering the levels of naval and air forces and limiting their activity."

● Fourth: "If the United States agree to the elimination of military bases in the Philippines, the Soviet Union will be ready, by agreement with the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to give up the fleet's material and technical supply station in Cam Ranh Bay."

● Fifth: "In the interests of the safety of sea lanes and air communications of the region, the USSR suggests that measures be jointly elaborated to prevent incidents in the open sea and air space over it. The experience of the already

existing bilateral Soviet-American and Soviet-British accords as well as the USA-USSR-Japan trilateral accord could be used during the elaboration of these measures."

● Sixth: "The Soviet Union proposes that an international conference on making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace be held not later than 1990. Preparatory work for it is known to have been completed, in the main, at the United Nations."

● Seventh: "The USSR suggests discussing at any level and in any composition the question of creating a negotiating mechanism to consider Soviet and any other proposals pertaining to the security of the Asia-Pacific region. The discussion could be started between the USSR, the PRC and the United States as permanent members of the UN Security Council."

Fanatical students hold key to Burma uprising

From Edward Gorman
Chieng Mai, Thailand

The key to the success or failure of the Burmese uprising - rapidly being seen here as inevitably developing into full-scale revolution and civil war - lies in the hands of an enigmatic, highly secretive, and fanatical student leadership based at Rangoon University.

The students have won widespread backing, particularly from Burma's 100,000 monks, since March when the uprising started. Today's student leaders have drawn inspiration from similar protests in South Korea and from the overthrow of the Marcos regime in the Philippines. But the success of the current uprising is perhaps due most of all to an understanding of mistakes made in the past, such as in 1974.

Riots broke out over the Government's refusal to allow students to bury, on the site of the university

student union building, the body of U Thant, the former United Nations Secretary-General, whom the students saw as a symbol of resistance to an increasingly hated totalitarian regime.

In that protest the students called for the overthrow of what they described as the "one-party dictatorship" of General Ne Win. The Government responded by declaring martial law. Nine people were killed in the riots which followed and more than 1,800 were arrested.

This year's students, according to one leader, approached those involved in the riots of the early 1970s for advice on how best to topple the Government. They were told, he said, to diversify their activities and to resist the temptation to unite under a single, easily identifiable leader. In this way, the Government's huge network of informants would not be able to penetrate them successfully. It also prevented key

individuals being removed or assassinated.

There are now thought to be more than 30 separate cells working inside Rangoon. Often the students themselves do not know who is making the decisions or how the orders to launch demonstrations are passed down. But it is clear that the demonstrations, which have been the most effective instrument for change and now regularly attract several hundred thousand people, have been carefully managed.

A central organizing committee of between 20 and 25 people and, more recently, a general strike committee, are the main co-ordinating bodies. These have been used to set up a public welfare department to collect food and water to sustain protesters for days at a time on the university campus.

A Red Cross department copes with casualties and a publicity department explains the student

programme of action to other groups around the country. There is also an intelligence group, known as the protection unit, performing the task of identifying among student ranks government informers, some of whom have been executed.

While no undisputed leaders have emerged, a zoology student, aged 26, is thought to be among the top strategists. He has adopted the nom de guerre Min Ko Naing, which in Burmese is a powerful and poetic name with two meanings: "Victory over the Kings", or "I shall defeat you".

According to Mr Bertil Lintner, a Swedish journalist and leading expert on Burma, Min Ko Naing was originally a name used by several student leaders and committees but was claimed by its present owner earlier this year.

Very little is known about Min Ko Naing except that he now leads the All Burma Federation of Student

Unions and the Rangoon Students Union, and he is reputedly a brilliant scholar from a humble Rangoon home. Students began to rally around him in March after one of his closest friends was killed while demonstrating outside a Rangoon police station, becoming the first casualty of the uprising.

U Thant Myint-U, aged 23, grandson of U Thant, has just completed a degree in government at Harvard and is waiting in Bangkok to return to Burma. He believes the students are now in danger of allowing what has been a remarkably peaceful movement to degenerate into a bloody civil war.

"This is the best thing the Burmese people have done," he said, "but it's also in danger of turning into something terrible. Once you start this whole climate of terror, with people having to kill out of fear of being killed themselves, it's going to be very difficult to stop."

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Polish aces remember Battle of Britain

From Richard Bassett
Warsaw

As airmen in Britain recall the 48th anniversary of the Battle of Britain this weekend, Hurricanes and Spitfires are taking to the air again — albeit only in model form — in Warsaw.

Each year the British Embassy's Air Attache celebrates the anniversary with some of the many Polish pilots who helped to deny Nazi Germany command of the British skies.

"They are the brave and the bold," Group Captain Michael Killick says, painstakingly fixing a model Spitfire to the ceiling of his residence.

The air attache transforms his house each year for 24 hours into a Polish Battle of Britain museum in miniature.

Here, under the models of the aircraft they flew and next to pictures of themselves as young aces, the Polish survivors of the Battle of Britain gather. It is clearly the highlight of their year as their tales are retold.

The Polish contribution to the Battle of Britain is something they have every right to



Polish Battle of Britain pilots; Squadron Leader Stanislaw Skalski, top right, and Wing Commander Witold Lokuciewski.

be proud of — out of 4,300 Polish airmen serving in the RAF, more than 2,000 were killed during the war.

After Britain, Poland provided the biggest number of fighter pilots — 147 — for the Battle of Britain.

Thirty of them were killed. A total of 340 British decorations for gallantry were

awarded to them. Some, like Wing Commander (later Colonel of the Polish Air Force) Witold Lokuciewski, DSO, DFC, remember vividly the first day they flew in a British squadron.

"It was a brilliant, sunny morning. We were, I suppose, rather trigger-happy, eager after what the Germans had

done to Poland, to shoot any Hun out of the sky. At first the squadron had to have British commanding officers to prevent us taking off every time we heard a German aircraft within 100 miles. I pranged two Dorniers on my first sortie. Greatly satisfying."

Wing Commander Lokuciewski, who later served as

Polish Air Attache in London, was twice shot down, was captured by the Germans and sent to the infamous Stalag Luft 3. From there he made a number of escape attempts, finally reaching Allied lines.

Squadron Leader Stanislaw Skalski accounted for more than 23 German aircraft and was so highly decorated —

DSO and two bars, DFC and two bars — that even East European air attaches with breast pockets bristling with scores of communist decorations feel decidedly inferior.

With Squadron Leader Skalski, Wing Commander Lokuciewski and Wing Commander Tadeusz Sawicz, they view the few men who accounted for almost 50 German aircraft with respect.

Squadron Leader Skalski, like many of the RAF pilots who returned to Poland after the war, had to put up with suspicion and the outright hostility of the communist regime.

Many servicemen were believed to have been "communistised" by their time in the West. Some were even imprisoned. Others, including the remarkable Miss Anne Daah, who flew aircraft for the RAF across the Mediterranean, were banned from flying or joining Polish air clubs.

But most of those who survived and came through the years of Stalinist oppression are agreed that 48 years ago they had "the time of our lives".

Peking struggling to provide a place for the millionaire class

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

Controversy is raging in Liaoning province over whether or not millionaires should be allowed to join the Communist Party. It is the first time that the party has ever had to deal with this knotty problem, according to the official New China News Agency.

At the heart of the debate is Mr Liu Xigui, aged 34, a farmer who lives in the rural outskirts of the provincial capital, Shenyang, whose application to join the party has not so far been accepted. But Mr Liu is no ordinary farmer.

Nine years ago he took his savings and all the money he could borrow and obtained on contract an old truck from a local work unit. From such small acorns can mighty oaks grow in China today.

Now his private transport business is apparently flourishing. The enterprise is reported to have fixed assets of 5.2 million yuan (about £870,000), a fleet of 49 vehicles and a staff of 240.

So when Mr Liu applied to join the party, the provincial party official in charge of such matters said: "I became rather confused as to whether or not the party should accept the owner of an affluent private business." His concern

stemmed from the party constitution, which states that party members should be "advanced members of the proletariat".

Still uncertain what to do next, the provincial party has invited further expressions of public opinion on the matter. Mr Liu has been a good citizen, handing in more than a million yuan to the state in taxes and donating tens of thousands of yuan to local welfare, the news agency pointed out.

Moreover, hundreds of party members have written to the provincial party in support of Mr Liu's application. One wrote in praise of the "vanguard role of the millionaire who leads his villagers to fight for common prosperity".

Others, however, have argued that millionaires acquire their wealth through the exploitation of the workers they employ. It is ridiculous, they say, that such a person could become a true communist and try to eliminate exploitation.

With the number of private businesses employing workers constantly on the increase throughout China, the case of Mr Liu in Shenyang is unlikely to be unique. More important, it is symptomatic

of the problems that China's leaders face as they try frantically to reconcile economic development with theories of socialism.

Indeed, the plan is that there will soon be no room for the old-style enterprise which went on happily making a loss year after year.

Bankruptcies will clear away the dross, according to the leadership's vision of an efficient China.

Yet China officially maintains that it is not taking the capitalist road. It says it has to learn from capitalism, but that the features which it chooses to adopt are not in fact capitalist in nature, but neutral, and can therefore be used by socialism.

Such roundabout justifications of what is occurring in the economic development of China are the subject of long commentaries in newspapers and magazines, and are less than convincing.

The theoretical debate continues, and Mr Liu awaits his party membership card with bated breath.

But one thing is certain. The Chinese will simply be trying to emulate him and his economic miracle.

Call for return of Mme Guillotine

From Philip Jacobson
Paris

A new campaign for the return of the death penalty in France is gathering momentum in the wake of a series of particularly atrocious murders involving children and adults over the rise in other crimes of violence.

Several thousand people marched through Nice earlier this week to mark the launch of a pressure group intended to mobilize what its organizers insist is the clear majority of French who now favour the reintroduction of capital punishment only seven years

after it was formally abolished (the last execution in France was in 1977).

According to one poll taken in the *departement* where Nice is situated, such a move has almost 90 per cent support. In a nationwide survey in 1984, when the violent crime rate was significantly lower than today, 61 per cent believed the death penalty would act as a deterrent.

Within the past few months, private petitions for its reintroduction drawn up in areas where specific instances of child murder and rape occurred have, unsurprisingly,

attracted enthusiastic backing. Among the demonstrators at Nice, the rape, torture and murder of Céline Jourdan, aged seven, this summer was repeatedly offered as proof that France has become a more dangerous place.

Since then, the discovery of a charred body believed to be that of Delphine Boulay, aged 10, abducted from a girl guide camp in August, has ensured that emotions remain high.

The immediate objective is to rally support for a national referendum in this, the backing of the far-right National Front party is assured.

FROM A VILLAGE IN THE HIMALAYAS

A grant shared better than a grant lost

By Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal

We went to look up some friends in the Untouchables' quarters, after a spell in town, and were taken aback by the hostile reception. Saheju, who had been trying for eight years to save enough to buy a wife, glared at us.

"I'm ruined," he said, thumping his chest. "My Harijan neighbours are ruined. We're all ruined. And all because people can't stop meddling. First they show us the light, then they leave us in darkness." Men and women stared at us resentfully as they nodded in agreement. Quickly, we considered whether to retreat, pretend we hadn't understood Saheju, or ask for an explanation.

Taking advantage of our confusion, Saheju grabbed each of us by the wrist and led us away. "Leave them to me," he called to the now agitated crowd. Uttering a string of blasphemous words which left us speechless, he marched us across fields of yellow mustard, down a path flanked by thorny bushes which tore at us, towards a half-built wall. "There," he spat out the word. "See for yourselves. That was to be a hut for my buffaloes. Now I will have neither the hut nor the buffaloes. The big sahibs have stopped the money grants for us poor Harijans."

We almost laughed at the absurdity of it. Here we were fearing for our safety, wondering what Saheju was up to, and he had only been trying to convey to us in rough village fashion the anguish caused by an official decision to stop government grants. An inquiry team had lately established that only half the money reached the recipients.

Why, we asked, was he so upset? A few months before, we reminded him, he had complained to us that of the 3,000 rupees (£120) earmarked for his buffaloes, he had received only 1,500 rupees. The rest had been pocketed by either the grants officer, or the *patwari* who kept land records, or the Harijan welfare representative. "From now on I'd rather spit on the money than allow them to take half my grant," Saheju had declared.

Surely, we asked him now, he didn't prefer the old system under which each Harijan was almost invariably cheated out of half his money? "Ah, that's the whole point," Saheju answered. "You and the Burra sahibs kept telling us it is bad and we must expose it. But we Harijans have discussed things. Of 3,000 rupees, is it better to receive 1,500, or nothing at all?" he asked us triumphantly.

"But should you allow corrupt people to rob you of your money?" we countered. "That too we have discussed," he shot back. "It's government money. We haven't earned it with our toil and sweat. It is, you

see, free money. Why shouldn't those who bring it all the way from town take a share?" "The Government pays them a salary," we pointed out. "It is their job to come and give the money to you."

"Maybe," he persisted. "But they would soon lose interest in securing us grants, having them approved, if there wasn't anything in it for them. If they know they can expect half, they'll try and push my application. If they know there'll be nothing, they won't try."

If he'd got a few more grants, he continued, he would have been able to complete his hut, buy buffaloes. "The most we poor were ever able to save was 300 or 400 rupees. We always had to borrow larger sums — until the grants came. With a whole chunk, we could plan for the future."

"What you've all been getting is half-grants," we insisted. "You sign or put your



thumbprint on a receipt for the full amount, but receive half. If you could have built your hut and bought buffaloes with mere half-grants, what could you not do if the entire sum was handed over?"

Saheju was unshakable. "It is better to take what you are offered than lose even that in the hope of getting more. Look at us now. We'll be getting nothing — nothing."

The poor were not just the victims of corruption, but its innocent accomplices. Imperfect as the system is, the grants, it seemed, made all the difference. We were running out of arguments. "But is it right to give away money that is rightfully yours?"

"Is it right," Saheju spoke slowly, emphasizing each word, "that you townspeople should have so much, that rich people should have so much, while we have so little even when we work ourselves to the bone? Is it right that I should have been born into a poor family, not a rich one? There were no rights and wrongs in a poor man's life. Saheju informed us, only needs.

Corruption is wrong, there are no two ways about it. But how could we convince him of that, without showing him a way out?"

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Next Saturday: The village strikes gold



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EEC taxation problems

Lawson's 'market based' solution in for rough ride

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

Battle lines have been drawn in advance as EEC finance ministers gather in Crete today to discuss the European Commission's controversial proposals to approximate the indirect taxation regimes of member states by 1992.

Meeting two months before the Commission is due to publish its mid-term review of progress towards the completion of the European single market, ministers will be under pressure to find a way out of the impasse that is threatening to undermine one of the central objectives of the 1992 programme.

But despite almost universal opposition to the fiscal approximation plan unveiled in August 1987 by Lord Cockfield, Britain's commissioner for the internal market, the Commission is adamant that it has the only viable formula for the elimination of fiscal frontiers, and refuses to back down in the face of increasingly strident criticism from member states.

The Commission's plan calls for the introduction of two bands of VAT, a standard rate of between 14 per cent and 20 per cent for most goods, a reduced rate of

between 4 per cent and 9 per cent for socially sensitive goods, and the harmonization of excise duties, in order to abolish the enormous variations in indirect taxation that presently divide the Community into 12 national units.

The twin band formula is based on a compromise between the VAT regimes of all member states. Implementation is vital if potentially damaging trade distortions — where consumers in high VAT countries can take advantage of purchasers in low VAT countries — and internal frontier controls are to be abolished by 1992, the Commission says.

But the plan has been greeted with a hail of criticism from high VAT countries like Denmark, Ireland and Italy, which are facing the prospect of having to overhaul their indirect taxation regimes, and from low VAT countries like Britain which is loath to impose VAT on a range of items presently zero-rated, such as food, children's clothes and books and newspapers.

Ministers will be presented today with a list of questions about the fiscal approx-

imation proposals drawn up by the Commission in the wake of these criticisms.

The Commission hopes answers to the questionnaire will provide the information needed to draw up a series of compromises in an attempt to overcome individual member states' reservations about the scheme, while keeping the broad outline of its proposals intact.

Most member states have objected to the details and timing of the proposals, although they have accepted in principle the need for fiscal approximation in some form. Only Britain has expressed outright opposition to any attempt to bring about fiscal co-ordination by Brussels.

Last week, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveiled what the Commission regards as a uniquely British version of the European internal market *avec frontieres*, which officials fear "could torpedo the entire internal market programme".

Mr Lawson's "market based" approach calls for the gradual elimination of restrictions on cross-border shopping, retention of differing rates of excise duty on ciga-

rettes and alcohol, and introduction of a postponed accounting system for VAT which would substantially reduce the need for frontier controls.

Mr Lawson's plan is likely to receive a cool reception in Crete.

What has really infuriated Commission officials is that the Lawson plan rests on the assumption that there will always be internal frontier controls, which Britain seems determined to keep in the battle against terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and serious crime.

The Commission argues that these problems are now European-wide in nature, and can be dealt with effectively only by European-wide solutions. It has called for the creation of an external barrier around the Community to deny terrorists and drug traffickers access and increased co-ordination between police and intelligence agencies.

Pointing out that there are no frontier controls between Ulster and the Irish Republic, the Commission accuses Britain of a hypocritical attachment to an outdated "island mentality".

Bangladesh facing cholera epidemic

From Ahmed Fazl Dhaka



About 30 million people in Bangladesh are in need of emergency medical services to avert an epidemic which could kill 100,000 people living in thousands of waterlogged villages ravaged by the floods.

This warning was given by Adah, the association of foreign charities and voluntary organizations, as the flood devastated one district after another, displacing 43 million people.

Mr Jeffrey Pereira, director of the Catholic charity, Caritas, and a spokesman for Adah, said that an epidemic of cholera would sweep the country as the water stagnated and became further polluted.

The association said at least 1,000 people had died of intestinal disorders, including cholera, and more than half a million had been affected in the past week as the water started receding.

"Our figures are based on the 15 per cent of the flood victims which the voluntary organizations and the government agencies could reach so far," Mr Pereira said. "There are thousands of diseased and hungry people who are sending for themselves."

The UN is to help Bangladesh design a flood preparedness programme. Mr Mohamed Essafi, co-ordinator of the UN Disaster Relief Organization, said the programme would include a warning system, building embankments and fortifying dykes.

Children made homeless by the floods foraging for food scraps in a pot outside a refugee camp in Dhaka. Aid officials say it will be almost impossible to feed all refugees in the city.

Swedish elections

The low-profile foot leading a party to disaster

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden's Socialist Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, will put his foot well and truly in it tomorrow, if the opinion polls are right, leading his party into its most disastrous election in 60 years. It is a question of personality, or rather, lack of it.

Mr Carlsson, aged 54, has never truly succeeded in developing a decisive profile after taking over two years ago from his assassinated predecessor Mr Olof Palme.

He has also made mistakes, such as promising his disgraced Justice Minister, Mrs Anna-Greta Leijon, a ministerial post in his next administration. To the average Swede this smacks of arrogance.

It was Mrs Leijon who sanctioned a private investigation into the Palme assassination and as a result was forced to resign earlier this year. The Prime Minister still stands doggedly by her, despite all the evidence of her severe lack of judgement.

Sweden is a country that takes itself very seriously indeed, but it does have at least one comedian: Mr Hans Alfredsson, who is also an extremely talented film director. It was Mr Alfredsson who, as long ago as 1973, most devastatingly captured the essence of Mr Carlsson's basic blandness by likening the Prime Minister's long, featureless face to a foot.

Today even Socialist election propaganda uses the image. "It is you who decide," reads the slogan over a time of feet marching to the polling-booths, one of them wearing a pair of glasses. Mr Carlsson's name is not mentioned. It doesn't have to be.

Everyone in Sweden knows who The Foot is. Indeed, Mr Carlsson has himself said:

"feet are cute." But the Socialists are not the only ones with personality problems, however.

The Conservative leader Mr Carl Bildt, aged 39, is expected to be the other big loser in Sunday's vote. He is given to making defiant statements on the need to ward off the menace of intruding Soviet submarines, a traditional Swedish problem. But his boyish face belies his tough stance, and to most Swedes he lacks authority. In opinion polls on the nation's confidence in party leaders, he always emerges in last place.

The two glamour boys of the Swedish poll are Liberal leader Mr Bengt Westerberg, aged 45, and Centre Party chairman Mr Olof Johansson, aged 51, both of whom attract a large proportion of the female vote.

Curiously, Communist leader Mr Lars Werner, aged 53, radiates a non-revolutionary avuncular image that may not, however, succeed in getting his party over the 4 per cent level needed to gain admission to Parliament.

The Greens, who are the jokers in the pack and likely to wind up holding the balance of power between the socialists and non-socialist blocs, shun all cult of personality. However, their current "spokespersons," Mrs Eva Goes, aged 41, who is the mother of six children, and bearded, burly Mr Birger Schlang have made a definite impression. Mrs Goes, possessed as she is of a fine soprano voice usually brightens up election rallies by bursting into the Green anthem "We demand action."

In something as low-key as a Swedish election it provides at least a little light relief, and is better than feet, no matter how cute.



Mr Ingvar Carlsson left, Mrs Eva Goes, centre and Mr Olof Johansson, right, will be facing the voters on Sunday.

Port for poison ship

Rome — The Italian Government yesterday overrode the fierce objections of local politicians and ordered the northern port of Livorno to accept the ill-fated poison ship, Karin B (Roger Boyes writes). It emerged from a Cabinet meeting that the Karin B is only the first of a convoy of poison ships set for Italy with rejected waste. Signor Giorgio Ruffolo, the Environment Minister, who proposed Livorno for Karin B, estimates that at least four more poison ships will arrive in the next few weeks, including one with unspecified "problems on board".

Chilean exiles

Santiago (AP) — Chile's two top labour leaders were sent into internal exile for 18 months for calling a strike that violated security laws and left three people dead.

Nato death

Oslo (Reuters) — A US sailor drowned when he fell overboard in bad weather during a Nato naval exercise off Norway, defence officials said.

Pub politics

Athens (Reuters) — Three US servicemen were injured in a fight with two Libyans outside a bar in the outskirts of Athens. The Libyans were arrested, police said.

Press closure

Madrid — The Spanish news weekly, *El Globo*, has ceased publication, only 11 months after it first appeared, Progress publishing company said.

The only thing in this paper you don't want to know.

While the disruption of the postal service continues, there are three other ways to pay your phone bill.

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TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

There is no paranoia here in the Olympic Village... it is the real thing. There really are people watching you. All the time. The unwinking eye, the grey bag searcher, the man on the roof and the sniffer dog - these are the emblems of the modern Olympics. One hundred thousand police and military personnel are involved in the security of the Games, all for 14,000 athletes and officials.

All the athletes are insured against terrorist attacks. If they die as a result of terrorism, their survivors will get 10 million pounds. This is not as good as it sounds: it is only £3,300.

Anti-terrorist technology is more impressive. There are 6,000 known international terrorists and 600 terrorist organizations on the Games computer. The elite anti-terrorist soldiers are equipped with silenced machineguns with laser aiming devices, technology which reduces marksmanship to the level of shooting fish in a barrel. Perhaps the BBC could borrow one for Malcolm Cooper, Britain's and the world's top marksman. After one of the corporation's number accidentally broke one of his rifles, that's the least it can do.

The Koreans have adopted a splendidly silly system to counteract the traffic chaos that the Olympics have threatened to bring. If your car has an odd number, you can use it in the city only on odd dates. Even cars, even dates. There are big penalties for those who defy the ruling: they are asked not to do it again. Believe it or not, it works.

Quote of the week: "The compulsories sort out the men from the boys." This from Carolyn Waldo, a synchronized swimmer from Canada. As they say in that part of the world, when the going gets tough, the tough take up synchronized swimming.

The Americans have their new go-faster swim suit, inspired, as reported in this space, by the America's Cup water flow technology. The Australians replied with their own wonder drawers, known as the Aussie Cossie. The only trouble is, it has been banned. The Australians say the suit is "seal-skin style", but the International Swimming Federation says it can give the swimmer an advantage in buoyancy so it is illegal. The Australians counter-proposed that it was a technological advance like fibre glass poles for vaulters, but that didn't wash.

My heart goes out to Gary Knapp. I generally find it hard to feel much sympathy for yachtsmen, let alone American yachtsmen, but in this case, I am prepared to stretch a point. Knapp dislocated his shoulder in Pusan, where the yachting events will take place. He fell off a bicycle. The Libyan Olympic athletes also deserve sympathy. No one knows where they are. They gathered in a hotel in Libya, prepared to fly out here, only to be told they could not go. As I write, no one knows why.

BARRY FANTONI



"Keep it quiet, but I've asked Ralph to buy it for William for Christmas"

Korean wrestlers are tanking up on illegal substances. At least, the substances would be illegal in Britain. Kantoju, a mixture of cooked dog and aromatic herbs, is packed full of strength-giving stuff, they believe, and they can't get enough of it. "The Korean idea of fast food is a greyhound," one of my colleagues remarked. The wrestlers are also fond of boiled snake, and the female hockey players have a taste for the same dish. Choi Soon-ho, a football forward, said he had eaten 500 snakes this summer for their strength-giving power. The footballers also favour deer antlers. But the favourite Korean strength giver is ginseng. The Korean Boxing Federation has spent two million won (£1,630) on ginseng for every boxer in the Games.

Singapore has sent nine athletes. It has sent ten journalists. Nice to see some people getting their priorities right.

The triathlon is one of those sports with Olympic ambitions, and it would probably look pretty good on the list. But after one of the more spectacular blunders in sporting history, the sport will have its work cut out to regain its credibility. The triathlon is the swim-bike-run endurance test, and the competitors are a pretty remarkable bunch. Yet 80 out of 200 were disqualified at the European short course championships the other week. The event was held near Venice, and it took one back to those botched-up in the World Athletics Championships in Rome last year, in which officials miscounted the laps in the 10,000 metres, and also left a poor marathon runner having to ask the way.

This time, the problem was the swim. It was meant to be 1,500 metres, but it was much too short. For that reason, the competitors were all grouped together as they set off on the bike ride. Bunch racing, as in the Tour de France, is illegal in the triathlon but there was no help for it among the crowds. But in the course of 40 kilometres, the officials disqualified their 80 competitors. At the end, no medals were given out, on the grounds that the competitors did not deserve them. The triathlon is basically about suffering, but I cannot help but feel that this was overdoing it.

Many of us who planned the SDP in 1980 and launched it in 1981 will view David Owen's conference in Torquay over the next few days with a mixture of sadness, irritation and curiosity. Sadness because we have lost the friendship and campaigning contribution of a number of valued members who helped to establish and build the SDP and the Alliance.

Irritation because they were such flimsy reasons that led Dr Owen and his supporters wilfully to reject the clear majority view of SDP members in favour of merger, thereby causing the utmost dismay and confusion among our supporters and dashing the high hopes of many who had so welcomed the breath of fresh air brought into British politics in 1981.

We did after all tell the electorate that the Alliance was a partnership of principle and of shared values. The majority of us still believe that to have been the case. Now, soon after the split, Dr Owen tells us he wants to get back together again with another electoral agreement with all the problems of two leaders, two conferences and two organizations which we merged to avoid.

Apart from the elementary fact that punching someone in

the face does not usually elicit the most friendly response, it is also odd so soon after a rather messy divorce, and before the Democrats have even finished electing their new executive and policy committees, to find one of the partners wanting to go back to living together again.

What in heavens name is the crucial difference that makes living in sin perfectly permissible but marriage untenable?

How can any organization calling itself Social Democrat put up a candidate against such a prominent and distinguished founder member of the SDP as William Goodhart in the Kensington by-election?

Maybe we shall see in Torquay over the next few days. Certainly the attempts by some of Dr Owen's supporters to go for the red-neck populist vote - with a large Union Jack wrapped around every missile and a crude appeal to working-class self-interest - would mark them out

Ian Wrigglesworth dismisses David Owen's olive branch

Torquay's futile talking

as different to the Democrats. For that matter, the whole macho image also marks them out as rather different to the original SDP we launched in 1981. But there will also be bogus attempts to mark out differences and to try to paint the Democrats as a Mark II Liberal party. What nonsense.

We have been told in the last few days, for instance, that they are going to drop the inflation tax incomes policy because it was forced on the Alliance by the Liberal Party. The main culprit for that was Dr Owen himself, who accepted and advocated it. As economics spokesman, I was opposed to it. But to describe the Liberals as responsible for it when its main architect and advocate was the leading SDP economist, Professor Richard Layard, is just downright untrue.

The desire of the members of the Social and Liberal Democrats to embrace both the old parties and be neither a Mark II

Liberal Party nor SDP was clearly expressed in the voting for the balanced ticket of Paddy Ashdown as leader and myself as president, with Des Wilson taking just 38 per cent of the presidential vote.

I think this desire and this balance will also be clear at our first annual conference in Blackpool next weekend. After that, I hope we will cease to look back at the two old parties and concentrate on developing our own character and identity, and in printing it on the public mind in a way we found impossible with two leaders and all the paraphernalia of two parties.

Before the last election we adopted a strategy of seeking the balance of power. This was based on polling evidence which showed that many voters would support us if they thought we were going to obtain power and they were not wasting their votes, even though that power was not going to be achieved

through an outright victory. The strategy failed because a majority of the Alliance did not support it and because the electorate became confused over whether we wanted to get into bed with Mrs Thatcher or Mr Kinnock. And also because they were distinctively unenthusiastic about voting for a party which declared its aim as being to come second or third.

Dr Owen is apparently still advocating this strategy of multi-party politics. We are not. Nor was it on the agenda when we launched the SDP in 1981. Multi-party politics will not come about until we have won power under the present system and then introduced proportional representation.

That does not mean we are in favour of the old "ya boo" politics. There should be much greater co-operation between parties to achieve common goals, particularly on issues with long-term implications, such as

pensions, and on foreign and defence policy. But that is very different to reaching pacts before elections.

Our task is not to play around on the margins of politics but to get ourselves back into the big league and build ourselves up as the non-socialist alternative to the Conservatives.

In my experience, there is a massive desire for this across a broad spectrum of the British public. We can only succeed in this long-term strategy by elbowing Labour aside, as Paddy Ashdown has said.

We would have found it easier to do this had Dr Owen not decided to stand apart. I still happen to believe that the damage of the past year could have been avoided if we had sought to bring about a close federation of the two old parties rather than an immediate merger. But that is all water under the bridge now.

We shall watch our former colleagues at their conference with curiosity. But we shall now be concentrating on building up our strength and presence in British politics without them in order to achieve what we set out to do in 1981. They, I fear, have gone off into the wasteland.

The author is president of the Social and Liberal Democrats.

John Vincent

Thatcherism from afar



Thatcherism in action on the world stage: national pragmatism or all part of a wider 'hegemonic project'?

Asking a Marxist to explain Thatcherism is like asking a bishop to explain sin. He falters; he cannot very well claim intimacy; yet he knows that his system should be all-inclusive. For those who want a fair survey of Left interpretations of Thatcherism, Professor Andrew Gamble, a Sheffield politics don and independent near-Marxist, is your man.

His latest book* is a study of Thatcherism and assembles the views of those who are against it. This alone should make his work a widely used student textbook. He asks not what Thatcherism is, or whether it is right, but whether one Marxist analysis of it is better than another. Indeed, the key to the last decade, it seems, lies in comparing what dear old Perry said in *New Left Review*, with what dear old Stuart wrote in *Marxism Today*. One feels one intrudes on a private conversation; and indeed one does.

The closed little club of the born-again Left is like all the clubs there have ever been: profoundly incurious about external reality. You might as well ask the members of White's or Boodle's about the dictatorship of the proletariat, or press the Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club on Marx's theory of surplus value.

Thus Professor Gamble gets off to a speedy Double First in incuriosity. His Thatcherism is Thatcherism without Margaret Thatcher; without the Conservative Party; without public finance, surely the central Thatcherite project. Not for him such petty side issues; not for him the distractions of social statistics, economic data, or electoral analysis. No; he goes straight to the point.

Is Thatcherism (1) fascism, (2) class war, (3) an attack on Women-and-Blacks, (4) authoritarian populism, or in Gamble's terse and sparkling phrase, (5) a Gramscian hegemonic project? (This last means an attempt to oust social democracy).

For those in doubt, Thatcherism says Gamble is not fascism. (One can see the diligent students noting it all down.) Where, for instance, is the Thatcher Youth? It is not primarily an attempt to do down Women-and-Blacks; only incidentally. It is not class war, either in the form of a lower middle class on the march, or of

the eternal war between capital and Labour. No one, says Gamble, is on the march; Thatcherism is "passive revolution from above". The hard-faced men who have done well out of the Eighties are the employed workforce. Otherwise Thatcherism would have been impossible. Thus do the Yummies of *Marxism Today* dispose of our time-honoured friend, the class war.

Professor Gamble prefers two other interpretations: first, Thatcherism as statecraft, not ideology, a means of handling difficulties and retaining power; secondly, Thatcherism as a new moral climate - the "hegemonic project". Thatcherism, writes Gamble, "seeks to confront and destroy the culture, the communities, and the institutions of the minority." By which he must mean "hands off Scargill, hands off Livingstone, hands off liberal

elitism". Now large no-go areas for the state may be a good idea, but not one the corporatist left can plausibly advocate.

The merit of Gamble's assessment is that it sounds sensible, unembittered, fair-minded, and probable. Its defect is that we have no way of knowing it is true, since it refers to unknown, perhaps unknowable intentions and motives. They, the politicians, do not tell us what they are thinking; and if they did, we should disbelieve them. Without testable knowledge of motive, we are chasing a black cat in the dark.

To overcome this slight difficulty, academics label things, hoping this to explain them. The more abstract the label, the more profound the truth, and in universities this is called research. (When others do it, it is called saloon bar philosophy.) Would that Marx had known this short cut to truth; it would have saved him decades of heroic grubbing after facts.

This is not the only fallacy in the Left's view of Thatcherism. There is the fallacy of symmetry: the belief that because powerless left-wing groups need esoteric books and ideas they have equal importance for Tories in office. There is the related fallacy of long-termism: the belief that Tories, like socialists, plan to reshape the world. There is the fallacy that Tory politicians resemble intellectuals, or even student politicians. And there is the fallacy that the New Right is crucial.

The Left is hugely exercised about the New Right; no one else is. Professor Gamble speaks of the Conservative New Right, and the Liberal New Right, thus making the term so inclusive that only Sir Ian Gilmour is left out. In a book which barely mentions the ruling group in Conservative politics (Whitehead and Howe are absent from the index, though Gilmour is cited 11 times), the New Right gets a whole chapter. It is almost as

though the Left, for whom thought-crime is the ultimate offence, find Roger Scruton's long tenure of No 10 the key to the age.

Talk of a new hegemony seems premature. It is too tidy to point to a new ruling group (business) based on a new electoral majority (those with something to lose) and working deliberately to achieve a new consensus. For a start, British business still lacks an historical consensus. It does not want to take charge; it is being told to. Legitimacy is being thrust upon it from Whitehall.

The new natural majority does not exist. Three Tory victories in exceedingly favourable conditions do not imply the Tories would prosper if the going was less than ideal, and the Tory vote has stuck at a level equivalent to only two-thirds of owner occupiers. Current polls suggest that the public not only prefers Labour values, but thinks Labour more competent in things that matter.

Electorially, the Thatcherite New Dawn has not happened.

Social democracy has not been overthrown by "populist authoritarianism", a nasty label which does not quite work. What is populism? It is anything *The Guardian* dislikes; in other words, being in touch with the mass of the population. That cannot be wholly bad; but the list of popular prejudices unpandered to is a long one.

As for authoritarianism, that charge relates either to short-lived media events such as the martyrdom of St Ponting, or else to undeniable emergencies where the state has responded to the initiatives of others (Galtieri, Scargill). When poked, the Government responds; which is very different from being programmatically authoritarian. As for social democracy, its central institutions look solid; it is the weaker bastions of liberal elitism which are being squeezed.

Was Thatcherism deliberate? Or did it just grow? Was it just one thing after another? Did its exponents really know where they were going? How much was putting a good face on undesired results? We can only guess; but already there are two schools of thought. Historians, because of their interest in policy, stress the strong element of continuity in Thatcherism as government. The politically committed, Left and Right, prefer to emphasize how Mrs Thatcher has changed the way we think. Both could be correct.

The simplest explanation is often the best. The coherence of Thatcherism derives from Margaret Thatcher. As Disraeli said, the Duke of Wellington failed as prime minister because he did not know England. Lord Palmerston, a lesser mortal, but the last party leader to win three successive elections, succeeded because he did. Knowing England is the chief job of a prime minister; and knowing Margaret Thatcher is the main task facing the student of Thatcherism. Here, left-wing theory misses what lies under its nose.

*The Free Economy and the Strong State: The Politics of Thatcherism. (Macmillan, £25). John Vincent is professor of history at the University of Bristol.

Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

Old faith abandoned

New York

"... I must add, however, that by my own experience it is almost impossible to mention Jews in print, either favourably or unfavourably, without getting into trouble." - George Orwell in a letter to Roy Fuller, 1944.

"What is a seditious?" A Times sub-editor recently telephoned to ask. (Answer: the ritual meal eaten by observant Jews at Passover). It was one of those disorientating moments that happen to you when you live a long time in a foreign country. I had used the word in a *Times* column assuming, as I would here, that everyone knew what it meant.

My mistake is indicative of the profound Jewish influence on America, at least as reflected in the vocabulary of New York journalists.

Last weekend, the political career of Frederick V. Malek was suddenly and completely destroyed. Malek resigned from his post as day-to-day operations manager of George Bush's campaign after the *Washington Post* resurrected an old story that, as a member of the White House staff back in 1971, he had prepared a list of Jewish civil servants in the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the order of President Richard Nixon, who believed a "Jewish cabal" in the agency was putting a hostile slant on its economic reports.

Some prominent Jewish leaders said they regarded Malek as

an innocent party. But in American politics there is no defence against a charge of anti-Semitism - particularly for conservatives. That Jesse Jackson has survived his "Hymietown" comments, and his support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, is a measure not merely of the only comparable taboo - against criticizing blacks - but of the tenacious attachment of American Jews to the political left.

This attachment has survived many predicaments of its demise. And the Malek affair is hardly the moment to risk another, even apart from the wisdom of Orwell's advice to any writer tempted by this fascinating but dangerous subject.

Nevertheless, I think it's worth reporting an impressionistic observation of my own: the sudden arrival of a new wave, or at least ripple, of young Jewish intellectuals into the American conservative movement.

There always have been individual Jewish conservatives, of course. And some factions on the right in America have been heavily Jewish, notably the cult gathered around the novelist Ayn Rand and the group of "neo-conservative" New York intellectuals who trekked out of the Democratic Party in the 1970s.

But this new group has distinctive characteristics. They are very young, often not yet in their thirties. They have not become conservatives via a conversion

from Marxism or through a passionate affair with the principles of free-market economics. Two common patterns in the past. And usually they come from liberal families, sometimes even from university backgrounds, where they are regarded with parental consternation.

Precisely why people adopt their beliefs has always fascinated me. Perhaps some of these young men and women wanted to be on the winning side after Reagan's victories, although a careerist intellectual who moves right in America is making a sad mistake. Possibly they were influenced by the peculiarly intense contempt with which many Israelis seem to regard American Jewish liberals, a factor that could hardly exist before Israel's emergence in 1948.

And at least one individual I know attributes his disillusionment with his parents' liberalism to his experiences when his northern city school was integrated by court order in the 1960s - a story which I suspect will prove to be rather common in his generation. But mostly they just say they simply always felt that way.

This sort of abrupt societal shift leaves plenty of room for sweeping theories. For example, perhaps we are seeing the last stages in the modernization of Jewish intellectual life after its emancipation from the ghetto. In Western Europe, emancipation occurred in the 18th cen-

tury. German Jews, when they emigrated to America in the 19th century, were relatively conservative.

But the great bulk of American Jews are descended from Eastern European refugees, who lived in cultural isolation until they fled Tzarist pogroms well within the last hundred years. They brought their socialism, and their alienation from the gentile world, with them. Maybe it's finally wearing away.

Or maybe not. I tried this suggestion recently on a Jewish academic I was interviewing, a man from a uniformly left-wing background who now causes student demonstrations by his ferocious attacks on feminism and affirmative action in support of black advance. He laughed and replied that he preferred a simpler explanation. "We're just argumentative," he said.

Even if this ripple of intellectuals presages a general movement of American Jews to the right, it will be too late for Fred Malek. His fall was almost certainly brought about by the Dukakis camp, stirring up a core constituency with a little help from their friends at the *Washington Post*.

The only thing that might help Malek now is a statement by his former employer accepting the blame. Nixon's conspicuous silence is all too typical.

The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

SEPT 17

ON THIS DAY

1863

Shirishies between insurance companies and households over disputed claims led to The Times becoming involved.

INSURANCE CLAUSES

A letter which we publish today upon Fire Insurance refers to a question of grave public importance. In a recent trial it appeared that one of the richest and best established Fire-offices refused to pay the sum insured without receiving an elaborate inventory of the articles in the house at the time of the fire, and direct evidence to show that they were worth the sum named. In other words, they disputed the claim made upon them step by step. They demanded almost an accurate proof of the value of every article at the time of purchase, and indicated a determination not to pay the whole sum insured for unless they could satisfy themselves that the property destroyed was really and immediately equal to the value which the insurer placed upon it.

Such an instance of the probable course of a respectable office has very naturally caused some alarm. Our correspondent wants to know whether, in case of a fire, he would be required to produce an accurate inventory of the furniture he bought thirty years ago, and which he has added to since at odd times and prices.

The habit of insurance is sufficiently discouraged already by the enormous tax which the

Government impose upon it. A charge of 200 per cent, upon the rates which the office think sufficient to cover their risks, deter many persons from an act of prudence which they would be glad to afford if they could. If to this the Insurance-offices add the nuisance of a long fight with pertinacious attorneys over every item of furniture that is destroyed, they will soon find their business diminish. Fires are not such common occurrences in proportion to the population, but many persons will rather run the risk of a total loss than face the certainty of a considerable annual payment and the prospect of an arbitration, if not a lawsuit, afterwards to obtain part of the money they insure for.

It is with insurances as it is with taxes, nothing checks their payment so much as their being troublesome. The great art of taxation is to get the money paid at the least possible trouble to the tax-payer, and it ought to be the great object of the Insurance-offices to give the public the advantages of insurance with the least possible trouble and risk. Nor can we see that the offices are suffering any inconvenience whatever to justify this troublesome and vexatious haggling.

They are for the most part enormously wealthy, and can afford to be a little generous. At all events, we are certain that their business depends on their treating the public with liberality and confidence. They can easily protect themselves from real danger without giving annoyance to their customers; and we hope both for the sake of the public and of the offices themselves that we shall hear no more of this ill-advised meanness.

1863

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SCALING OLYMPUS

The Olympic Games open in Seoul amid the customary effusion of international sentiment and national pride. That is a triumph in itself both for the International Olympic Committee and for the South Koreans, whose faith in their own suitability as hosts has remained unshaken. It is now up to the 13,000 participants to make this an occasion distinguished by sporting glory.

History is not on their side. It is 24 years since the vision of the father of the modern Olympiad, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, was last realized to any proper extent. That was at Tokyo, where so many athletes this year completed their preparations for Seoul. Perhaps that is a good augury.

In 1968 the Mexico Games were marred by violent demonstrations; at Munich four years later by terrorism. In 1976 many black nations boycotted the Montreal Olympics in a protest against apartheid. In 1980 the United States and some 50 other countries did much the same at Moscow after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. In 1984 the Russians paid them back by persuading 20 of their allies to stay away from Los Angeles because, it was said, of fears over personal security.

With that record, the decision made seven years ago to hold the present Games in South Korea looked like an invitation to disaster. South Korea was but one half of a distant peninsula, once riven by war and ever since split by bitterly opposed ideologies. Governed by a sequence of military autocrats and blessed with more than the usual quota of volatile students, it seemed an unlikely environment in which the Olympic ideal could take new root.

The threat of trouble seemed to have been confirmed in late 1985 when North Korea demanded that it be allowed to co-host the Games. Unless it was allotted at least eight of the 24 events (roughly the ratio of its population to that of the South), it threatened to lead an Eastern bloc boycott of the Games.

South Korea's refusal to agree has led to violent demonstrations in Seoul and the mid-air destruction of one of its airliners — as part of a campaign to force a relocation of the Games. But public opinion in Seoul, encouraged by recent moves towards democracy, has firmly backed the Government in its determination to press on.

Thanks partly to the energetic diplomacy of the IOC President, Señor Juan Antonio Samaranch, and partly to improved East-West relations, only five countries have joined the

North in its boycott. These are Cuba, Nicaragua, Albania, Ethiopia and the Seychelles. The combined impact on the Olympics of their absence will be negligible.

Against their joint decision to stay away, must be set the decision of 161 others to attend. Not only is this a record in the history of the Games, but it is two more than the number of those belonging to the United Nations. South Korea, which has worked an economic miracle in recent years, has spent an estimated £1,750 million on turning Seoul into a suitable meeting place for the world.

The biggest Olympic Games in history should not be an occasion for complacency, however. The risk that just one terrorist could bring tragedy and fear to Seoul this week is all too obvious. But so many in the world are here united by one purpose that there is little to be gained by wanton violence. Even North Korea has everything to lose, since China and the Soviet Union are both taking part and do not want to be embarrassed by Pyongyang.

Whether a peaceful Games will encourage the spirit of friendly competition which people like Baron de Coubertin had in mind is another matter. Controversy over drug abuse and the opportunities for modern athletes to earn big money have imposed new pressures on those who represent their country. So too has underlying nationalism. For many years this has turned the Games into not so much a contest between athletes as a battle between nation states for international prestige.

Britain has had its own family quarrels in recent weeks — chiefly about the method of selection. Athletes like Coe, Ovett and Wells, who not so long ago strode tall in the British camp, seem about to slip into sporting history, to take their places alongside the Bannisters, Chataways, Pories and others whose hopes and ambitions once held the nation in their thrall.

Shortly now the country will be saluting their successors. The next few weeks will bring joy to a few and disappointment to many. But they should also bring great pleasure to the more than 1,000 million people around the globe who are expected to watch.

The world will briefly be united by the spectacle. It is too much to hope that the losers will all accept defeat in the Olympic tradition. But they may perhaps do so in safety and in peace. If what happens on the track and in the field is the most important news to come from Seoul each day, that in itself will be cause for rejoicing.

ASLEEP IN SPACE

The Soviet space mission to Mars, which drew the envy and applause of the West when it blasted off from Earth, risks failure after only two months. According to the head of the Soviet space programme, Dr Roald Sagdeyev, one of the two Phobos craft is veering off course and its very arrival in the vicinity of Mars, let alone its future usefulness in the exploration project, is in doubt. It has virtually gone to sleep in space.

How badly the mission as a whole has been damaged is not yet known. The two spacecraft were programmed to duplicate much of each other's work, so something may be salvaged. There is still a very slim chance that the dormant craft might be reactivated. But for one to have been crippled so early in the voyage cannot but handicap the programme.

This is a tragedy for the Soviet space establishment. Not only does the disablement of one probe mean that a great amount of time, money and energy has been wasted, it also represents a loss of face. The space programme has been, with a few exceptions, a Soviet success story. In a country facing serious economic, social and political problems, it could be held up as a model of what the Soviet Union could do when it set its mind to it.

The loss of the American shuttle Challenger was widely believed to have given the Soviet Union an even greater lead over the United States in space than it already had. The loss of Phobos would set Soviet space research back, if only because the exploration of Mars will not advance as rapidly as had been planned. It could also prompt searching questions in Moscow about the size of the Soviet space research budget.

But the tragedy, if the Phobos probe is lost, belongs not just to the Soviet Union, but to international science. There is equipment from many countries on board and there had been every hope that the information obtained would be shared. It was also envisaged that, once the planned US Mars expedition was

launched in the early 1990s, there could be superpower co-operation in the exploration of the planet considered most like our own. Now, gathering the information required for an eventual manned mission to Mars could take much longer.

Had the Phobos craft been put out of action by unforeseen natural circumstances or even by the failure of a component, the loss could have been written off to force majeure or chalked up to experience. In the latter case the disaster might have been harnessed to the Soviet leadership's earthly quest for more stringent quality control.

Unfortunately, as Dr Sagdeyev has disclosed with admirable frankness and not a little exasperation, the Phobos rocket owes its somnolent state to incompetence at ground control. The same people who were responsible for preparing the rocket and getting it into space proved incapable of keeping it operational. An official sent the wrong computer message to it, with the result that its engines shut down. It was as simple as that.

Dr Sagdeyev — who has recently had many uncomplimentary things to say about the state of Soviet scientific research — has drawn comparisons between this expensive tragedy and the Chernobyl disaster. Both, he said, were caused by a prevailing sloppiness in the approach of Soviet workers to the task in hand.

Indiscipline and negligence at work, often caused by lack of understanding or interest, is one of the factors retarding the Soviet Union's economic performance. But when — as at Chernobyl and now with Phobos — the same cavalier approach is taken to science, the consequence is not just loss of money, but loss of reputation as well, and often great danger.

That the necessary sense of responsibility has apparently been lost is a sad indictment of Soviet science. Time and encouragement will be needed if it is to be restored. If the outlook is as pessimistic as Dr Sagdeyev suggests it is, man may well reach Mars first.

FORGIVE THEM THEIR TRESPASSES

There was a time, and not so long ago, when townspeople resorted to mass trespass to press their rights of access to countryside in private ownership. Today they send cheques to pressure groups. There was a time, too, when landowners would offer cash rewards for help in nailing the trespassers. Today they send complaining letters to the press.

A lot of water has flowed down the Ribble since five men received jail sentences for their part in the Kinder Scout mass trespass of 1932. When members of the Ramblers' Association converge tomorrow on some 20 footpaths around the country to show how rights of way are being made impassable, they will be less rampant, and certainly less numerous, than their spiritual forebears.

The ramblers of the late eighties are only mildly militant. They can afford to be; those mass trespasses of the thirties led to the parliamentary plateaux of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act and the 1965 Commons Registration Act. If today's ramblers can quote so freely from the small print of access law, that is because there is so much of the stuff about.

Although their movement may have won the major battles of principle, however, they still see a million skirmishes to be fought in the scrublands of practice. Their boldness may be less and less romantic than it was, but it is fundamentally undimmed. Ramblers are

angry at the moment because a large proportion of the 135,000 miles of pedestrian rights of way in England and Wales are not open to them. Farmers are ploughing up and cropping over and failing to reinstate. Worse, the Countryside Commission is even now recommending yet further decontrol of how paths may be diverted.

Since 1949 this country has had a comprehensive register, county by county, of where ramblers may rove. More and more people list walking as a leisure pursuit, and the outdoors generally has risen into the first division of political preoccupations. Yet local authorities seem unwilling or unable to police the liberties for which trespassers trespass.

Town halls are responsible for maintaining rights of way. Tending to the integrity of a path that traverses a turnip field in a remote patch of reclaimed wetland is a grey and unsung chore compared with a royal visit to open a leisure complex. One reason why "the man who deals with the footpaths" is so elusive in the rambling season is because in summer he is the man who looks after the swimming pools.

Unless that low priority — real or perceived — is changed, more footpaths will vanish and ramblers will fancy that they have no choice but to become more radical. If the area of accessible countryside is allowed to shrink further, we will all be the poorer.

Greens at heart of the matter

From Mr Tim Cooper
Sir, Robin Oakley (article, September 12) makes a valid observation when he suggests that many voters "with green edges" fail to appreciate the connection between environmental concern and questions relating to peace and defence. However, to conclude that the Green Party should "compartmentalise" its policy package reveals a serious misunderstanding.

At the heart of Green politics is ecology, a fundamental principle of which is the significance of the inter-connectedness of all things. Thus just as the natural world is a "web of life", so must any truly Green manifesto be a fully integrated whole.

A willingness to threaten the whole planet with nuclear destruction would hardly mix easily with our passionate commitment to environmental protection. Greens seek no less than to restore a proper relationship between humankind and the rest of creation. That cannot be achieved so long as our society remains willing to engage in nuclear warfare, which would destroy the natural world.

Yours faithfully,
TIM COOPER, Co-Chairman, Green Party Council, 10 Station Road, Balham High Road, SW12, September 13.

From the shadow Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Sir, How can Jonathon Porritt (Profile, September 8) claim that none of the main political parties raised environmental issues at the last election? The Labour Party had devised a sound environmental policy with the help of many other organisations, including Friends of the Earth, which Jonathon was kind enough to praise at the time.

Contrary to his assertions, Labour stressed this excellent policy during the campaign. We held a full press conference on "green" issues, issued a special leaflet, travelled many thousands of miles during the campaign spreading the message of "green" socialism.

When he bemoans the lack of political interest in Chernobyl, is he not aware of the hundred or so parliamentary questions I tabled on this matter which resulted in a report which proved the British Government by their inactivity, risked public health? Is he similarly unaware of the Labour members of the Agriculture Select Committee pressing for, and obtaining its report on the nuclear accident?

Has Jonathon missed the many questions I tabled on behalf of the Labour Party early this summer on the state of the North Sea which presaged the seal epidemic?

Some of us have been arguing for "green" policies in and out of Parliament for many years and we have treated Jonathon as a welcome recruit to our cause. But he does not help the environmental movement by misrepresenting our efforts, many of which have resulted in successful legislation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CLARK, House of Commons.

Rubbish disposal

From Dr Sidney C. Alford
Sir, Whether Switzerland or Great Britain has the more stable rock formation should not be seen by Lord Rugby (September 3) as relevant to the problem of disposing of industrial waste: to consider that such material has been "disposed of" merely by depositing it where it cannot, for the moment, be seen — whether underground or on the sea bed — is to turn a blind eye to the real problem.

It is most regrettable, however understandable, that the treatment of waste is not felt to be just as prestigious as its generation: would you rather your daughter married a manufacturer of jet engines or the disposer of metal oxide sludge; a *chef de cuisine* or a sewage worker? Yet to the biologist — and, like it or not, we are living organisms — life cycles do not simply end with the generation of excreta, and there is

Finding frequency for local TV

From Dr Tom Margerison
Sir, Your report (September 9) that next month's White Paper on broadcasting will propose a new local television service is welcome. Local broadcasts — news, local affairs and advertising — as elements in a networked channel of general and entertainment programmes, could be very popular and would help people identify more closely with the area in which they live and to which they feel they belong. It is lack of a sense of identity, of being part of an area, that brings many problems in today's society.

But the news that the Government may be thinking of MVDS (multipoint video distribution systems) broadcasting from microwave "beacons" makes no sense. Not only does MVDS give poor coverage because each aerial needs line of sight to the transmitter, but heavy rain or windblown trees interfere with it. This limited service is only obtainable by buying a new receiver and aerial at a cost of perhaps £100 or £200.

It would be better to deliver local broadcasting through the existing television frequencies plus the two extra ones likely to be released soon from other duties. Each local area would then have its own broadcast transmitter similar to the ones used today in "fill-in" areas where television reception is poor.

It would, of course, need some juggling of frequencies to be certain the local stations did not interfere with one another. But the public would not have to buy new sets, only to realign their aerials to pick up the local transmitter.

At first, the number of local stations might need to be limited. But if the experiment worked, there could be a radical reappraisal of transmitter policy to replace the monster "blanket"

stations like Sutton Coldfield and Emley Moor, replacing them with local stations without degrading the service. Eventually, national television networks would be properly transferred to satellite channels, leaving terrestrial television for the local networks.

Yours etc.,
T. A. MARGERISON,
22 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
September 14.

Listings monopoly

From Mr N. Elliott
Sir, Geoffrey Cannon (Media and Marketing, September 14) is surely correct when he says that the *Radio Times/TV Times* copyright is outdated and should go.

At a time when television broadcasting looks set for a dynamic and innovative future the listings monopoly is out of step with public tastes. British people own more video recorders per head than any other Europeans, but cannot easily plan what to record in the week ahead.

With the spread of satellite and cable TV the general demand for viewing guides and independent reviews will grow. BBC and ITV risk losing audiences to new stations which will make their schedules public information.

The Adam Smith Institute's study in June pointed out that 80 per cent of the public support allowing newspapers and magazines to publish programme schedules for the week ahead. The Government must look critically at such a dated restrictive practice. Its demise should feature in the recommendations of the forthcoming White Paper.

Yours faithfully,
N. ELLIOTT,
Adam Smith Institute,
23 Great Smith Street, SW1,
September 14.

Counselling at work

From Mr David Barter
Sir, I agree with the principles put forward by Alexandra King (Wednesday Page, September 7) and the views of Professor Clare are widely known by personnel professionals. However, it is quite unrealistic to promote marriage counselling in the work place environment. Stress counselling — yes, and as the two are related, opportunities should be given for help on stress together with alcohol related drugs and career problems. (A common drug problem can be someone hooked on tranquillisers).

But this must be a highly confidential service and must be carried out by an impartial outside professional.

My company specialises in career development and is available for personal counselling at all levels. Employees tell us problems which they would be reluctant to air with their employers. There usually is a solution which increases job performance and attendance at work. Likewise we can put companies in touch with occupational health specialists who can go into problems in more depth.

It is very important that there should be information available at the workplace for employees to contact a counsellor direct, who must be impartial.

Sincerely,
DAVID BARTER,
MSN Career Services,
Lloyds House,
18 Lloyd Street, Manchester.

Jarre concert

From Mr Mark Sweeney
Sir, Speaking as a Jean-Michel Jarre fan, I must express my exasperation at the belated cancellation of the Docklands concert, due to its promoters' supposed failure to satisfy safety requirements (report, September 14).

The precise reasons given for the call-off seem to change with the tides; one minute it is "fire hazards", the next "big crowds" or "traffic jams." What on earth did they expect with an artist of his stature? As for a fire hazard, if there truly are such dangers arising from a conjunction of audience size and locale, then the unsuitability of Docklands should have been made clear by the council at the start.

Sadly, I think Docklands will be remembered as the place that, almost, staged that concert, and will be lucky to receive a similar offer ever again. After all, you need only ask the people who know best — the past recipients of the glittering Jarre megashow in Houston and Lyon — if they think the right decision was made in their towns.

Yours etc.,
MARK SWEENEY,
18 Bryce Road,
Currie, Edinburgh.

Postal reflections

From Mr P. A. Sergeant
Sir, Mr Bernard Levin (September 8) seems to suggest that the law of supply and demand requires that Post Office workers in London should be paid more than Post Office workers doing similar work in Scunthorpe. So much the worse for the law of supply and demand.

This is not an absolute law, but one which can be corrected. I hope that my neighbours who are postal workers resent, as I do, the money that is poured into London from the provinces to keep that grasping and inefficient metropolis in the manner to which it has become accustomed. It is grossly expensive and inefficient partly because it is expensive partly because it is inefficient.

No rich pickings from the stars

From the President of the Astrological Association
Sir, Sally Brompton's picture of the "rich pickings" to be had in astrology (Monday Page, September 12) is highly misleading. It may indeed be possible to pay £200 or more for a detailed report from a top specialist, but this, even with the help of a computer, will probably have taken at least two days to prepare; hardly a fortune in comparison with other professionals.

The average professional astrologer is in fact very hard working, idealistic, and dedicated. She (the majority of them are women) is usually earning below the national average wage and works in such areas as character analysis, counselling, psychotherapy, vocational guidance and personnel selection. Her motivation is usually to help her fellows, not to "make rich pickings".

Ms Brompton is equally misleading about astro-intelligence reports. She implies that these consist entirely of universal statements and flattery with which anyone would agree. Did her report say nothing of her dark, shadow side?

I have read over 50 of these reports so far. Each report was, different, and, *inter alia*, demanded that the individual confront some less than pleasant facets of their character.

Whilst no computer-produced report can replace a personal consultation with a well-trained astrologer, it can, in my view, offer much highly apposite food for thought for the genuinely enquiring and reflective individual. I would suggest that Ms Brompton re-read her own report.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HARVEY, President,
The Astrological Association,
5 Victoria Road,
Frome, Somerset,
September 14.

Gibraltar shootings

From Mr S. N. Mulliner
Sir, I was astonished to read in *The Times* (September 8) that the words "errors", "miscalculations", "misjudgements" and "mistakes" were used to describe the assumptions made by the security forces in Gibraltar that the IRA gang would be armed, had planted a bomb and would be able to detonate it by radio.

Given what was known about the terrorists' records, intentions and technical sophistication, these assumptions were surely obligatory unless refuted by overwhelming contrary evidence available at the time and not *ex post facto*.

This is consistent with a proper application of the rule of law, which exists to protect the rights of all citizens, even terrorists, but not necessarily in equal measure at any given moment. If terrorists are justifiably suspected of posing an immediate and fatal threat to civilian lives, security forces must give the benefit of any doubt in an uncertain situation to the law-abiding and not to the outlaws.

This principle cannot justify the destruction of all suspected bombers as a matter of course. Each case will depend on its own facts and the Gibraltar inquiry will decide whether the SAS were justified on this occasion.

The good citizen pays homage to the rule of law in return for its protection. If that protection is illusory, what price the rule of law? Your headline, "Errors that led to Gibraltar deaths", is richly ironic. Exactly the same words could have been used if the terrorists had planted a bomb and been able to detonate it in the course of arrest.

Yours sincerely,
S. N. MULLINER,
Wood Street, EC2,
September 12.

Military pates

From Captain N. J. Benson
Sir, Captain Swainson's suggestion (September 3) that soldiers be permitted to grow their hair longer in order to become less conspicuous when off duty prompted me to carry out a limited consumer poll.

At muster parade the following Monday, I asked the opinion of 74 of the 76 members of my platoon. Sixty-nine of these soldiers said that if given the option they would maintain a short haircut in line with current fashion and only five preferred to grow their hair longer. A mutual lack of hair, long or short, persuaded my sergeant-major and me to abstain in the interests of objectivity.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. BENSON,
c/o Officers' Mess,
1st Bn The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's),
BFPO 38.

Unfortunately those who have the power to take corrective measures are also Londoners.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. SERGEANT,
22 Long Road,
Scunthorpe, South Humberside.

Until the postal backlog is cleared letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number, (01) 782 5864.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

And Jesus went up into a mountain and called unto him whom he loved, and they came unto him.

BIRTHS

BRADLEY - On September 13th, 1988, at Dulwich Hospital to Kerry (née Taylor) and John, a son.

BRIDGEMAN - On Wednesday September 14th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to Mary and Christopher, a daughter, sister to William, Emily, and Miranda.

de ROOPE - On September 16th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

FOOD - On September 14th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

GRANHAM - On September 9th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

HARRISON - On September 14th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

MATTHEWS - On September 13th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

MARSH - On September 16th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

PARSONS - On September 15th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

TYLER - On September 11th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

NEWMAN - On September 15th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

SCOTT - On September 14th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

DEATHS

AMBLER - On September 15th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

BONAVIA - On September 15th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

BURGESS - On September 15th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

GILLIN - On September 14th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

EDWARDS - On September 16th, 1988, at the Lundo wing to David and Susan, a son.

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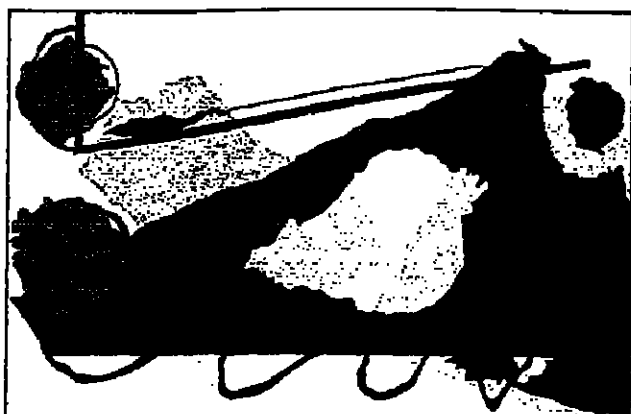
SHOPPING

Floored genius

Ranging from stark, geometric patterns to explosions of form and colour, Nicole Swengley chooses some modern British hand-tufted or hand-woven alternatives to traditional rugs



"Zigzag" handwoven rug by Lesley Millar, £800



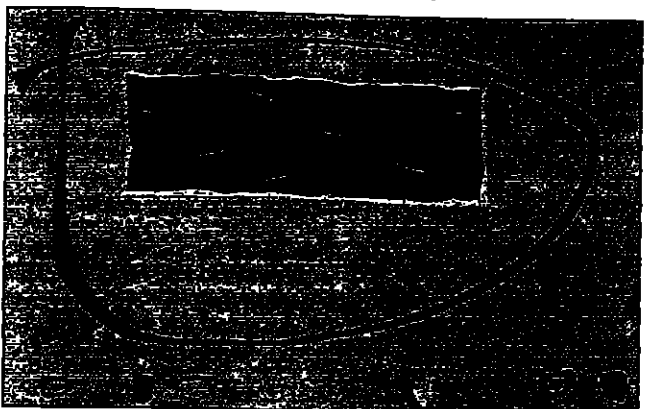
Abstract design hand-tufted by Lynne Dorrien, £820



Liz Kitching's hand-knotted "Skins" rug, £200



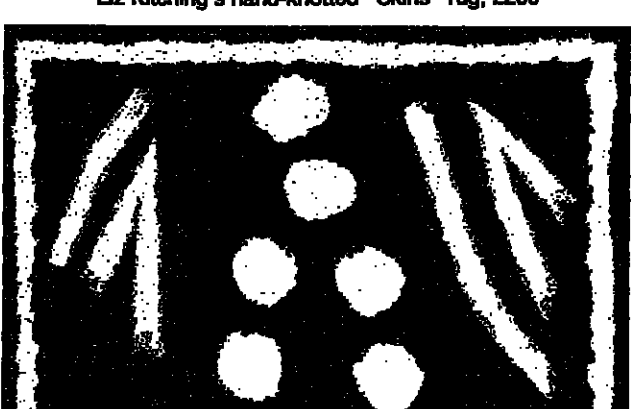
Annie Sherburne's "Mermaid" patterned felt rug, £322



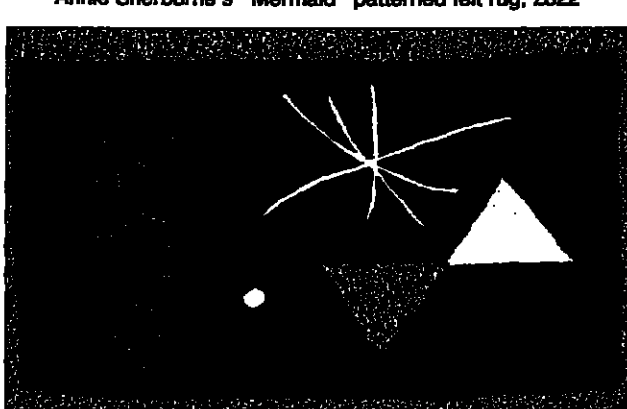
Rich hand-tufted rug by Helen Yardley, £1,600



"Harlequin" felt rug, £322, by Annie Sherburne



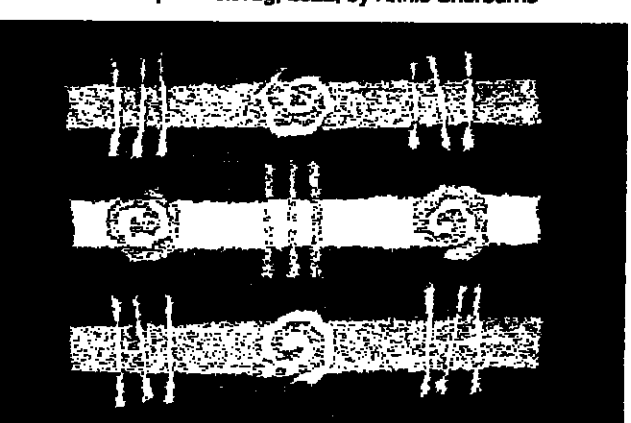
Bold geometric design by Celia Harrington, £585



"Miroesque" hand-tufted rug, £385, by Liz Kitching



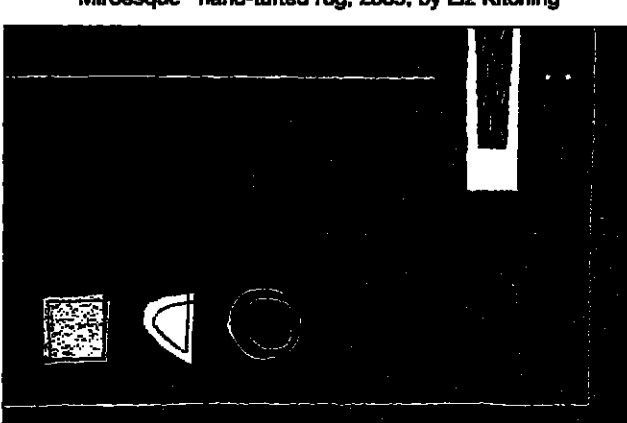
Hand-tufted "Blue Carnival" by Celia Harrington, £400



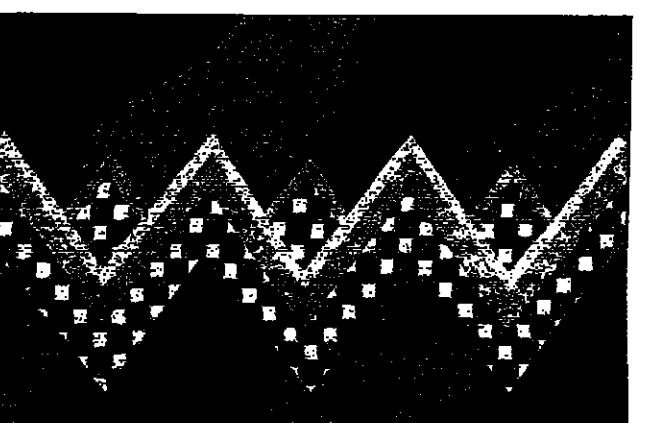
Hand-knotted "Cut Out No.2" by Liz Kitching, £200



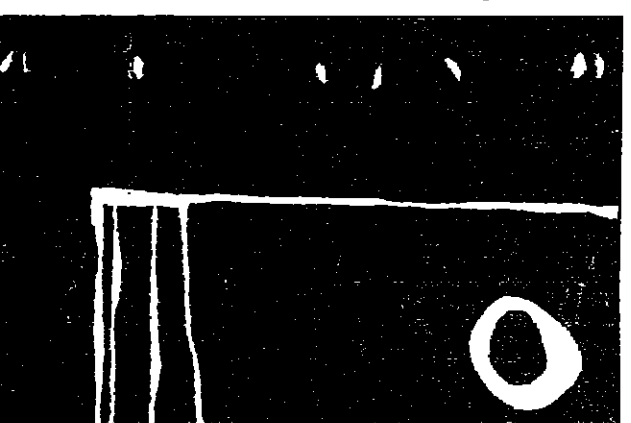
Lynne Dorrien's hand-tufted "Natural Rhythm", £820



Study in blue, hand-tufted by Helen Yardley, £1,395



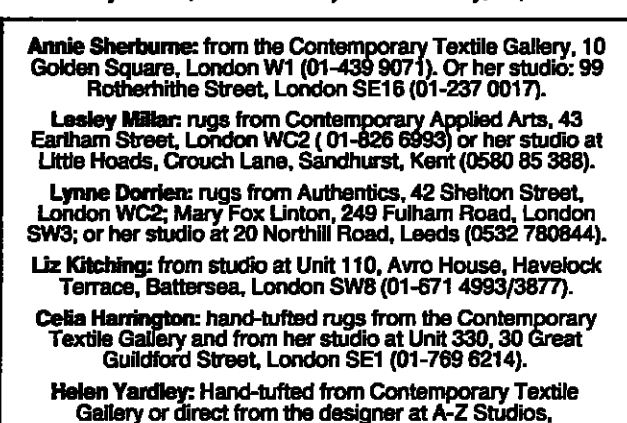
"All Wrapped Up" flatweave by Lesley Millar, £1,500



Early geometric design by Helen Yardley, £545



"Flash" flatweave rug woven by Lesley Millar, £850



Annie Sherburne: from the Contemporary Textile Gallery, 10 Golden Square, London W1 (01-439 9071). Or her studio: 99 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 (01-237 0017).

Lesley Millar: rugs from Contemporary Applied Arts, 43 Earham Street, London WC2 (01-826 6993) or her studio at Little Hoods, Crouch Lane, Sandhurst, Kent (0580 85 388).

Lynne Dorrien: rugs from Authentics, 42 Shelton Street, London WC2; Mary Fox Linton, 249 Fulham Road, London SW3; or her studio at 20 Northill Road, Leeds (0532 780844).

Liz Kitching: from studio at Unit 110, Avro House, Havelock Terrace, Battersea, London SW8 (01-671 4993/3877).

Celia Harrington: hand-tufted rugs from the Contemporary Textile Gallery and from her studio at Unit 330, 30 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 (01-769 6214).

Helen Yardley: Hand-tufted from Contemporary Textile Gallery or direct from the designer at A-Z Studios, 3-5 Hardwidge Street, London SE1 (tel. 01-403 7114).

Tomorrow's central seating

Milan is full of bursting with design folk this weekend. In their mad scientist haircuts and Japanese suits several sizes too big for them, they are here for the Salone di Mobile. It is like the Paris collections, the Cannes film festival and the Geneva motor show rolled into one.

It's the place at which the shape of living rooms to come, at least the shape of those living rooms that belong to the glossy magazine-reading classes, is determined. Milan attracts everybody who is anybody in design, from Terence Conran to Norman Foster. The crowded exhibition halls are crammed with mile after mile of steel and chrome, lacquer and wood, tortured into every conceivable shape and style, from second empire Arabian boudoir to knowing Fifties revival.

The corridors are thronged with large men in crumpled linen suits, dangling handbags and melting in the sweltering humidity of the hot Milanese autumn. They are talking percentages with Arabs on orders for brass and perspex four-posters with crushed velvet upholstery, built-in hi-fi consoles, and electrically-operated bedside tables.

Sharp-faced marketing men scan their rivals' stands, ready to pirate and plagiarize shamelessly. But, despite their presence, the tone of the event is pitched to suggest that buying furniture is not merely vulgar commerce, but is a species of cultural endeavour. Some pieces are actually signed and numbered. Designers have even succumbed to the temptation of naming their works as if they are ready to go straight on to the gallery wall.

British designers are providing a welcome touch of sanity at the world's biggest furniture show. Deyan Sudjic on madness, Milanese-style

much relevance. The design hordes are here to see and be seen as much as to look at design. And to entertain them, the big manufacturers vie to produce ever more elaborate distractions.

Last year a firm that makes perfectly innocuous elaborate typists' chairs chartered a whole train on the Milan underground for a party, driving it from one end of the system to the other. Uniformed waiters in starched tunics dispensed chilled white wine and smoked salmon to revellers, to the accompaniment of roaming saxophonists, and to the astonishment of home-going commuters. The French are striking back this year with a ballet performance featuring Nureyev, celebrating in some mysterious fashion the wonders of French design.

The exhibition stands themselves are frequently more interesting than the exhibits.

'Large men in crumpled linen suits, dangling handbags and melting in the sweltering humidity'

One firm turfed over its showroom in one of the city's most fashionable shopping streets. Another chose last year to display its new ranges in what looked like an outpost of the Maginot line, ringed with barbed wire, guarded by machine-gun nests and watch towers, and with the furniture half embedded in sand.

For all the hoopla, furniture is a deadly serious business to the Italians, one at which they have led the world for three decades. That grip is beginning to slacken. The relentless pressure for novelty that has turned this branch of design into an outpost of the fashion industry has taken its toll. Some of the formerly big names of Italian design have run out of steam.

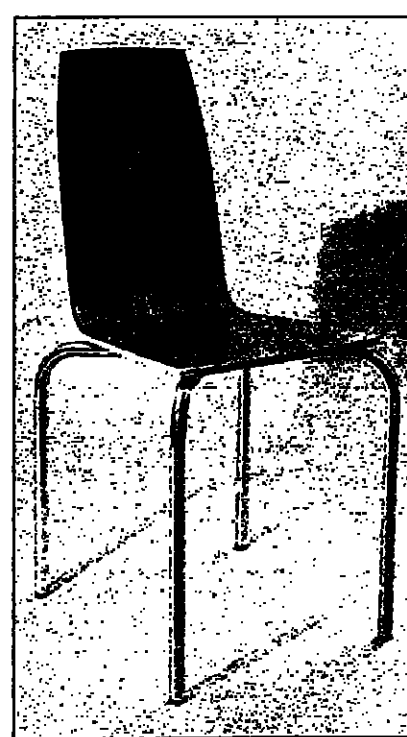
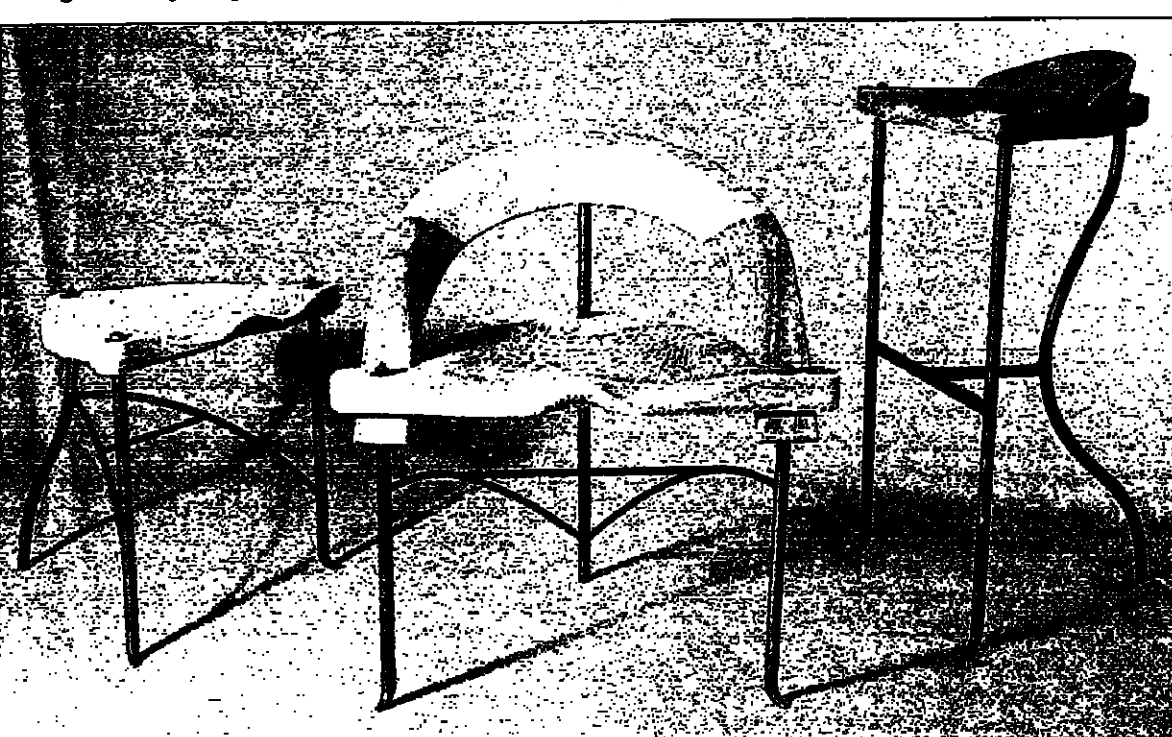
Italy is still the place that can make furniture better than anybody else, but the designers are coming more and more from elsewhere. The Spanish and the French are attracting more attention. And intriguingly, for the first time in years, Britain is putting up a respectable showing.

The British presence at Milan used to be distinguished mainly by firms selling tacky Chippendale reproduction bar stools. But this year a group of the kind of bright young hopefuls who wouldn't be seen dead next to the repro tat have banded together as the London Group to show what else is on offer in Britain. Sheridan Coakley's firm, SCP, is one of the most ambitious of the London Group's members. He is showing new work by Jasper Morrison, Nigel Coates, and Matthew Hilton that is attracting a lot of attention.

Coates, an architect with a fondness for cheerful anarchy, has worked chiefly outside Britain, particularly in Japan. His Noah chair for Coakley uses solid ash and patinated steel to create an armchair design that for once is recognizably a chair. Hilton is quieter, more straightforwardly modern, using cast aluminium shapes; and Morrison, three years out of the Royal College, has the potential to become an international star.



Lounge wizardry: Jasper Morrison's three-seater, from £1,493, has a solid beech and mahogany frame. From SCP, 135/139 Curtain Road, London EC2



Chairs alike: Nigel Coates's Noah series (armchair, £583; bar stool, £473; low stool, £403). Right, Matthew Hilton's Mono Chair, from £95. All from SCP

Saturday
17 September
1988

THE TIMES

MONEY

SECTION 2

Inside: Sir Colin Marshall on BA's turnaround page 18... Kenneth Fleet column page 21... MFI's successful buyout page 31

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

JMB case halted

The Serious Fraud Office has dropped proceedings against Mr Ian Fraser, the former director of Johnson Matthey Bankers, the bank nearly collapsed in 1984 with debts of £250 million. Mr Fraser was responsible for lending tens of millions of pounds.

He was arrested early in July and released on bail. A report detailing allegations of corruption against him was passed to the Attorney General by the SFO earlier this year.

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 Share
1422.5 (+0.5)

FT-SE 100
1766.7 (-2.6)

US dollar
1.6755 (+0.0030)

W German mark
3.1430 (-0.0050)

Trade-weighted
75.4 (same)

New York
Dow Jones 2093.17 (+0.89)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average 2786.38 (+60.71)

Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2458.82 (-15.26)

Amsterdam: Gen 269.7 (-0.5)
Sydney: AO 1559.2 (-8.9)

Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1542.6 (+3.2)

Brussels
General 5102.9 (+34.6)

Paris: CAC 364.5 (+5.3)
Zurich: SKA Gen 467.0 (-0.4)

London:
FT-A All-Share n/a
FT-300 n/a
FT-Gold Mines n/a
FT-Fixed Interest n/a
FT-Govt Secs n/a

Recent Issues Page 20
Closing prices Page 23

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:
Midland 414p (+12p)
Henderson Admin 555p (+10p)
Cadbury 367p (+9p)
Kwik Save 337p (+8p)
Systco 300p (+10p)
Nippon 283p (+12p)
J. Sainsbury 215p (+15p)
ECG 455p (+8p)
Ransome Sims 331p (+8p)

FALLS:
Scripps 900p (-25p)
Torrif 298p (-11p)
Cater Allen 342p (-5p)
Mersey Docks 371p (-8p)
Tate 195p (-10p)
VSEL 405p (-12p)
Pleasureama 215p (-6p)
London Utd Inv 133p (-12p)
Assoc Int Ports 499p (-10p)
Brant Walker 375p (-7p)
Buckleys 135p (-25p)

4pm prices

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 12%
3-month Interbank 12 1/2-12 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 11 1/2-11 3/4%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 1/8-7 17/8%
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£/\$ 1.6755
£/DM 1.7822
£/Sfr 1.5840
£/FF 6.3775
£/Yen 134.22
Index: 75.4
ECU 10.66010

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$417.30 pm \$415.15
close \$417.75-412.25 (£245.50-246.00)
New York:
Comex \$411.80-412.30*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct.) pm \$13.50bbl (\$13.75)
* Denotes latest trading price

Year's total heads for £10 bn

City fears growth in public surplus

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Booming tax revenues and below-target public spending produced another large repayment of public sector debt last month. But the figures, taken together with the increase in retail price inflation to 5.7 per cent last month, were seen in the City as further evidence of too much demand in the economy.

The public sector was in surplus by £1.47 billion last month, bringing the surplus for the first five months of the current financial year to £4.6 billion. The Government received £2.2 billion from the second payment on BP shares last month. But the overriding message from the data was one of strongly rising tax receipts.

This is more than £6 billion

better than in the corresponding period of last year, when there was a borrowing requirement of £1.7 billion. Only part of the improvement was due to changes in the timing of privatization proceeds, and the debt repayment for the financial year as a whole is now heading for more than £10 billion.

But City analysts fear that the Government's healthy financial position, which owes much to the surge in growth which the Chancellor is seeking to damp down, will not provide sufficient insurance against a run on sterling later this year.

"The PSBR would normally have been taken as good news in the markets, but the figures reflect the fact that the economy is booming too hard," said Mr Neil MacKinnon, economist at Chase Man-

hattan Securities. "The exchange rate remains a serious worry."

"This was a larger surplus than expected," said Mr Gwyn Hache, economist at James Capel. "The surge in tax receipts is all part of the strong growth in the economy."

Customs & Excise receipts — which include value-added tax — were £4.64 billion in August, 18.5 per cent up on a year earlier. In the first five months of the financial year they were 12.5 per cent up on the corresponding period of last year. The Treasury, in its Budget forecast, predicted a 7 per cent increase in Customs & Excise receipts for the financial year as a whole.

The figures, which suggest that the pace of spending in the economy is accelerating, are subject to a lag of between one and three months between

people buying goods and retailers paying VAT and excise duties.

Inland Revenue receipts in the April-August period were £2.3 billion, 10.5 per cent up on a year earlier. This was in spite of the reductions in both the higher and basic tax rates announced in the Budget, which came through in July.

Public expenditure was boosted last month by £1.4 billion of lending to British Coal (reflecting a change of borrowing procedures) and a £500 million payment to Rover.

Supply expenditure in the April-August period was 5.5 per cent up on a year earlier, well below the rise in revenues.

And, excluding the lending to British Coal, there was an increase of only 2 per cent over the period.

MFI goes in search of a bigger market share

By John Bell, City Editor

MFI, Britain's biggest out-of-town furniture retailer, is developing new strategies to extend its customer base and break into new markets.

The plan, which MFI has not yet made public, involves three elements:

● An agreement to market Hygena kitchen and bedroom furniture through the Do It All chain of do-it-yourself stores run by WH Smith

● A pilot project to sell Hygena products directly through high street locations

● A national delivery and fitting service which complements the other two moves and enables MFI to add rigid furniture sales to its existing flat-pack operations.

MFI reached agreement with WH Smith last spring to establish Hygena showrooms in selected Do It All outlets

and to go into all Smith's new and refurbished outlets. To date there is a Hygena presence in 23 Smith stores and MFI expects that to hit 80 by the year end. "First results are very encouraging," says Mr Derek Hunt, MFI chair-

The boss and buyout...31

man. The Hygena outlets are roughly 1,000 sq ft and are believed to have a low break-even turnover.

The second element of MFI's plan takes it into direct competition with traditional High Street furniture companies for the first time. The pilot scheme involved the setting up of five shops in the South-east.

The outlets trade under the Hygena Interiors banner and are designed to market the

Hygena name to a wider public. Results from the initial trading have been under evaluation at MFI for some time.

The group has taken a decision to find sites for coverage of the whole greater London area. "If that pays off, as we expect that it will, we shall establish a national chain," says Mr Hunt.

Backing up these two developments is a fitting and delivery service. This will be available to customers at the Do It All and Hygena stores and also to MFI's mainstream outlets.

MFI has received interim Inland Revenue approval for a new employee share scheme which will be available to all staff after two years. The group hopes the scheme will be operational this year.

Guinness stake in LVMH up by £129m

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness is paying a further £129 million to increase its stake in LVMH, the French champagne and luxury goods group racked by boardroom rows.

The stake in LVMH is held in the joint venture company Jacques Rober, Guinness's partner in the company being the French group Financiere Agache.

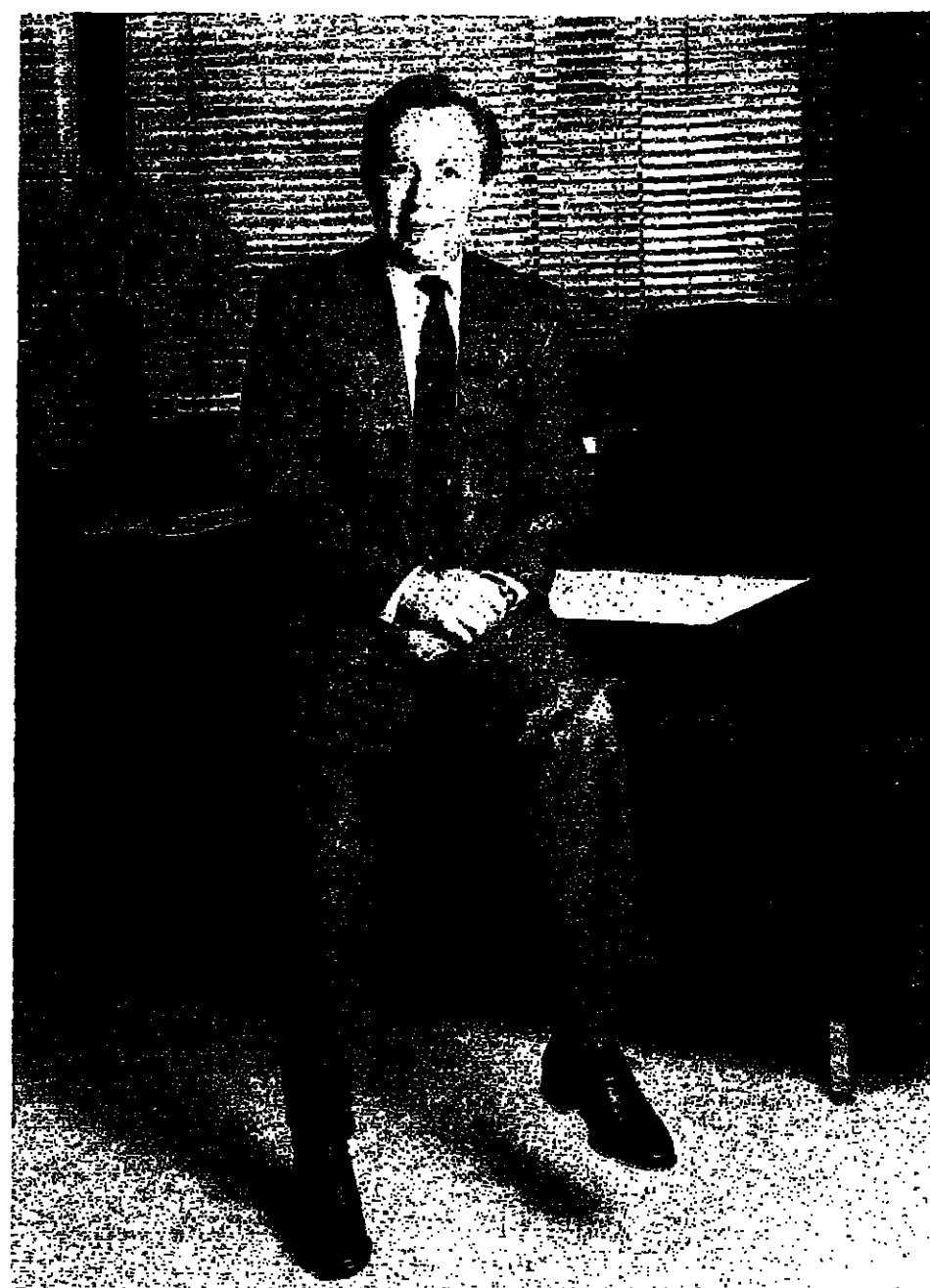
Jacques Rober originally planned to purchase 30 per cent of LVMH but has decided to take 37.48 per cent. The cost of this to Guinness, which owns 40 per cent of Jacques Rober, is £129 million. It will bring the total spent by Guinness on LVMH shares to £450 million.

LVMH is going through a boardroom upheaval and shareholders in the group will vote next week on proposals to restructure the top management of the company.

A break-up of LVMH could be on the cards, in which case Guinness would be anxious to capture LVMH's Moet & Chandon and Hennessy Cognac brands.

Guinness first announced plans for the LVMH stake in July this year. It last night refused to comment on the disagreements within LVMH.

Guinness has spent £6.6 million to buy a further block of 2.1 million of its own shares at 316.4p per share. This year the group has bought 17.1 million of its shares for more than £50 million. After last October's crash, shareholders approved a programme to buy in up to 10 per cent of the group's 900 million shares.



BA marshalls Japanese

By Our City Staff

Sir Colin Marshall, above, chief executive of British Airways, leaves London for Tokyo this morning to update the Japanese financial community on BA's progress.

Around 18 per cent of BA shares are still held abroad and Sir Colin is using the trip both to reach existing shareholders there and to address the financial community generally.

British Airways is planning to add the Tokyo exchange to the markets where its shares are listed, Sir Colin revealed. "Our Japanese shareholders are most important to us," he said, "and although no date

has been set we are going to apply for a Tokyo listing."

The company is searching for a chief financial officer to replace Mr Gordon Dunlop, who is retiring from his executive position at the end of 1988 and the board at the end of the financial year.

Inside Story...18

move which may trigger further board changes.

The decision to add a Tokyo listing comes when the company is doing particularly well in the Far East, where the Club World concept is understood to have increased revenues sharply. Mr Mark McVicar, airlines analyst at County

Natwest Woodmac, said Club World had been a "huge success".

In the first quarter of the current year, BA beat most forecasts, but opinion is divided as to whether the shares should be bought. The bear case is that a United States recession may be looming which could hit BA and all other airlines.

Against that, brokers such as County Natwest Woodmac and Barclays de Zoete Wedd are bullish of the shares on current trading grounds. They stand at a price/earnings ratio of just over 7 ahead of current-year results likely to show profits growth of around 10 per cent.

Lasmo to ask holders for support in choice of bidder

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Lasmo's shareholders will be asked to back their board's choice of bidder for its Enterprise Oil stake even if the bid is not the highest received.

About 20 companies are expected to submit formal bids for the 25 per cent stake. Lasmo shareholders are due to hold a special meeting in mid October with the share stake not necessarily going to the highest bidder.

Companies contacting Lasmo's banking advisers,

who are handling the auction, are being told that offers of any kind will be considered, but it is expected that Lasmo will eventually reject any asset or equity swap and seek a full cash bid.

However, bidders are being told that Lasmo will consider the future of Enterprise as an independent oil company when reviewing the bids.

It is likely that bids will be put on the table early next week with October 5 the likely

closing date. Repsol, the Spanish state-owned oil company, is expected to submit a written bid and to emerge as an early favourite.

British Gas, which mounted an abortive dawn raid on Lasmo this week, is also a favourite. Enterprise Oil was formed out of oil assets taken from British Gas by the Government during the privatisation of British Gas's privatisation.

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

Standard deals under scrutiny

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Stock Exchange is considering a full-scale insider dealing investigation into purchases of Standard Chartered shares by Mr Robert Holmes & Court, the Australian entrepreneur who is also Standard's deputy chairman.

Mr Holmes & Court is now expected to stand down as deputy chairman of the London-based international bank. He no longer controls

Bell Group, the company which owns a 14.9 per cent stake in Standard and is no longer consulted on the bank's most important decisions.

The bank revealed that, despite his position, Mr Holmes & Court was not involved in the decision about when to launch the £303 million rights which was announced this week.

Standard's embarrassed

statement was designed to refute suggestions that Mr Holmes & Court may have bought 90,000 of the bank's shares, costing £401,300, during August, already knowing the timing of the rights issue.

The Stock Exchange is considering whether it is possible that Mr Holmes & Court knew nothing about the timing of the rights issue when he bought the shares.

Checks start on ICH bids

Top United States banking advisers yesterday began the task of sifting through the multi-million pound offers to buy the Inter-Continental Hotels chain put up for sale by the British food and drink group Grand Metropolitan.

The merchant banker Morgan Stanley is understood to have received nearly a dozen firm offers.

Grand Metropolitan is likely to announce the successful bidder some time next week.

Monarch Resources chief to quit South America

Barnes calls it a day for love of Africa

By Colin Campbell

Mining companies are not only about their deposits. They are also about the people who run them. So the surprise announcement from Monarch Resources, the British mining group operating in Venezuela, that Mr Roger Ernest Barnes, the managing director, has asked for an early termination of his contract raised a few eyebrows in London mining circles yesterday.

Monarch shares held steady at 585p as the word went round that the parting was friendly and he would still be available on a consultancy basis, that a successor is being sought, that Monarch continues to do well in Venezuela, and that the departure was for personal reasons.

However, Mr Barnes was — and is — a mining man in the old tradition whose experience and professionalism gave

analysts specializing in mining matters a sense of comfort.

He is of that special breed of men who spend more than half their life underground with a steady eye for discipline, a hand for technical detail, and a nose for deposits. He marches along the drives underground as if he is reviewing troops. He is the type of man you either address as Mr Barnes, or Sir.

But mining men not only love minerals. They love countries and continents, and for Mr Barnes it is his love for — and the call of Africa — that will see him shipping back to Africa from South America at the year end.

Aged 60, and born in Britain, he is a chartered engineer, Associate of the Royal Society of Mining and Metallurgy, and holds a BSc honours degree in mining. His experience has seen him as

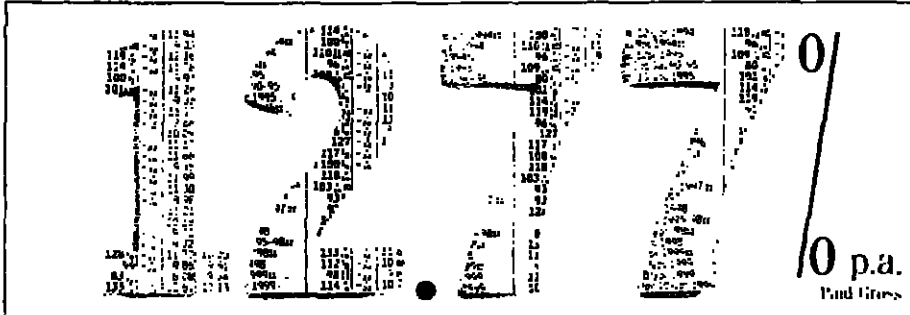
managing director of Dorman Long Vandybil Corporation and as consulting mining engineer responsible for underground operations at four gold mines in the Anglo Vaal group in South Africa. He has also worked at the fabled Ashanti gold mine on the Gold Coast.

He joined Monarch in 1987 as technical director bringing with him a total of 33 years experience in the world of mining. He was appointed Monarch's managing director in July this year, and it is from this post that he has asked the board for an early termination of contract — and all for the love of Africa.

Mr Barnes is to pursue a private mining venture in Africa which he had hoped Monarch as a group might have been interested. Monarch, however, believes it would be losing faith with shareholders if it was to split energies between Venezuela and Africa.

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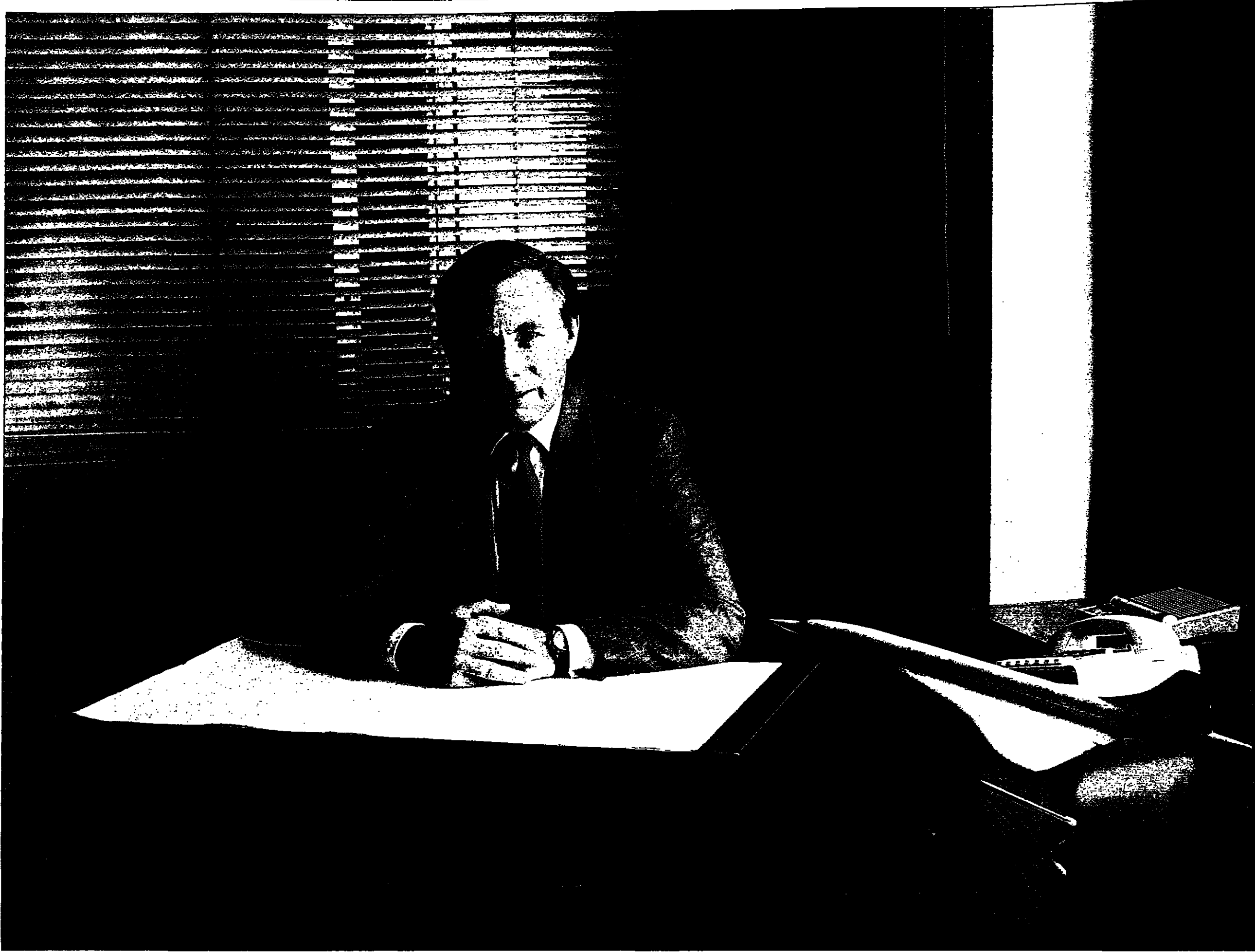
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INSIDE STORY

STEPHEN MARKESON



Marshall's plan: when Sir Colin joined British Airways in 1981 he realized that the airline had forgotten it was a service industry. Staff training, better communications, a new livery and more flexible management were the keynotes of his approach

Two wings and a prayer

A decade ago British Airways was flying into the doldrums — under-capitalized, beset by labour disputes, its low staff morale reflected in the service it offered. Now it is one of the world's strongest airline groups. Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive, explains how the rescue took off

A number of commentators, looking at the achievements of British Airways over the past few years, have described our turnaround as "miraculous". No doubt the term was kindly meant. I prefer to think that our success can be analysed rationally.

Success in business is something that has to be built up step by step, by a combination of hard thinking and hard work, usually in that order. Inevitably it takes time.

The problems that British Airways faced in the early 1980s were largely the consequences of a politically inspired merger in the early 1970s between two state-owned airlines, British European Airways and British Overseas Airways. However worthy the objects, the practical results were unhappy.

The combined organization was grossly overstaffed; morale had largely collapsed; and customer service declined as the management's energies were expended on fighting a series of internal battles. At one stage there were some 40 different industrial disputes within the airline simultaneously.

Some or all of those problems might have been overcome in time, but an industry-wide recession at the beginning of the 1970s brought about a financial crisis that threatened the airline's survival. One reason was that British Airways was in a classic poverty trap. It was seriously under-capitalized and its profits were modest. As a result it was obliged to borrow ever-increasing sums to finance the new aircraft and equipment it needed if it was to remain competitive. Inevitably the profits were swallowed up in paying interest charges.

It was at this point, at the beginning of 1981, that Lord King became chairman. His long-term remit from the Government was to prepare the airline for privatization. In the event his immediate task, and that of the new management he brought in, was to save it from bankruptcy.

The steps he took at that time were tough but efficient. Staff numbers were cut by 23,000, or about 40 per cent, unprofitable routes and obsolete aircraft were axed, and several hundred million pounds were written off.

If the medicine was strong, the

effects were salutary. It quickly became apparent that, freed from the burden of superfluous staff and unprofitable operations, British Airways was capable of earning much higher profits than most people had believed possible.

It was a start, but it was a long way from a recipe for success. Short-term financial disaster had been averted, but the airline still had to find a course that would lead it to long-term commercial success. To chart that path, and to make sure we followed it, became one of my principal tasks after I joined British Airways in 1983.

The real problem quickly became apparent as I started to learn my way around British Airways: the airline had forgotten that it was a service industry.

There was nothing fundamentally wrong with its operation. It had an excellent route network, its aircraft were carefully maintained and expertly flown, and it possessed, even after the staff cuts, a large workforce of competent and dedicated people. If lifting people off the ground in one place and putting them down again safely somewhere else had been enough to ensure success (and a number of senior British Airways managers had grown accustomed to that concept), then British Airways might have been accounted a successful airline.

It was not enough, however. The truth was that a disturbingly high proportion of British Airways' customers in those days flew with us because they had to, not because they wanted to. They lost no opportunity of saying so, especially to their friends.

Horror stories abounded. Passengers complained of grubby, uncared-for aircraft, while cabin crews in turn told tales of woe about broken trolleys and ovens that would not heat the meals. The complaints about our staff were, if anything, even worse.

Many of the staff, particularly those in contact with the customer, were undoubtedly cynical and frustrated after years of being

three weeks before was still broken.

One of the most important tasks in any service business is to keep the "shine" on the product day in and day out. It demands an unremitting attention to detail (which in itself can be expensive in management time) and a firm sense of priorities when it comes to spending money.

There is a natural but very dangerous temptation, particularly when a company is facing cash-flow problems, for the management to persuade itself that it can cut back just a little on cabin cleaning, or in-flight catering, or replacement uniforms, and the customers will never notice. The first time round, they possibly don't. The second or third or fourth time, they do. Too late the management discovers that it has destroyed in weeks a reputation that took decades to build.

We discovered all these problems, and more, when we started to tackle some of the more glaring deficiencies. For the most part they were straightforward management problems, and we tackled them at the right end — by making senior managers go out in person and put things right.

We sought to avoid the traditional hierarchical approach to problem-solving in the airline, in which the task was handed down from A to B to C. This new approach meant injecting a commitment to personal accountability that in many departments had been lacking.

For instance, we gave one manager the specific task of getting the interiors of our aircraft clean. We also gave him the power to cut across all the established lines of authority in order to get the job done. In fact he had to tread on very few toes, for once the senior line management knew what was expected of them, and understood that we wanted excellence, not excuses, remarkable things began to happen.

Junior airport staff became accustomed to the sight of senior managers climbing aboard aircraft at 6 o'clock in the morning to make sure cabins were spotless before the first service of the day took off.

As our cash flow position improved, we began to spend large sums on all the basic things that had been neglected for years:

passenger seats, carpets, catering equipment, ground vehicles. It was a very long list. These improvements were not lost on the passengers, who for the first time in years saw evidence that we cared whether they enjoyed their flight, and wanted them to come back again.

The story of Super Shuttle encapsulated everything we were trying to do to win our customers' goodwill. The existing Shuttle service on our key domestic routes to destinations such as Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast and Manchester was technically successful, because it gave business travellers the convenient, high-frequency service they needed. What it did not offer them was any semblance of personal care.

Junior staff began to see their senior managers climbing aboard aircraft at 6am to make sure cabins were spotless

In pursuit of simplicity and low costs the airline had always set its face against any kind of in-flight service at all. While that might have been good accounting practice, it was not the way to win the custom of a hungry businessman, compelled to start a long day by flying to Scotland at 7 o'clock in the morning with not even the offer of a cup of coffee.

That take-it-or-leave-it attitude was sustainable as long as we had no competition. But the day a competitor appeared on the route and offered a full hot meal, our hungry passengers voted with their stomachs. In an alarmingly short space of time we lost nearly 30 per cent of our market. The whole Shuttle concept was in jeopardy.

After extensive consumer research, we determined that the problem, in a word, was breakfast. Provided they were not asked to fly unfed on an early morning service, most passengers would

prefer the Shuttle to its competitor every time. We started offering all our early morning passengers a full hot breakfast except on the short flights to Manchester, on which continental breakfast was supplied. The customers responded enthusiastically, we won back a large measure of the business we had lost, and the Super Shuttle concept has never looked back.

Napoleon said that in war morale outweighs material factors by three to one. He would have made a good manager in a service industry: there was little point in operating a smartly refurbished aircraft if the passengers were looked after by a surly and demoralized crew. So we invited about a third of the entire airline staff, the people at all levels who came into contact with the customer, to go through a two-day course called "Putting People First". In it, we set out to show people how their own attitudes towards the customer, and towards their own colleagues, in turn affected the way in which their customers saw them.

It was simple, understandable and convincing, and as we had expected, suspicion soon turned to enthusiasm among those who took the course. A related course for the rest of the staff proved an equal success.

We had already found that a great many people in the airline, particularly the younger staff, had no idea what other departments did, or why their work was important. Often they did not even know what their own jobs contributed to the end result. So we devised a simple programme called "A Day in the Life", in which mixed groups of staff, drawn from right across the airline, spent a day in a lively and entertaining exhibition run by their own colleagues in other departments, with real working exhibits, and experts on hand.

It was a revelation to most of the staff who took part in it, and it was so successful that when we came to sell shares in British Airways in February 1987, we used the same basic show to tell City financial experts about British Airways.

Staff motivation had to go hand in hand with the next development — a complete change in the airline's appearance, designed

to emphasize a clean break with the past. The first stage was a change in the external livery of our aircraft, including a new range of corporate colours — red, blue and silver. At the same time there were new uniforms and workwear for our staff and a new decor for our travel shops and airport lounges worldwide.

Inevitably these changes took a considerable time to introduce. We had to repaint over 150 aircraft, dress over 28,000 staff — about three-quarters of the entire payroll — in new clothing, and undertake refurbishment of Executive Club lounges and nearly 200 travel shops.

The aircraft and the staff uniforms were virtually finished by the summer of 1987, and refurbishment of the Executive Club lounges is well under way. The travel shops will take longer to refurbish completely.

It is always hard to say at what point in the life of a threatened company the rescue process ceases and normal day-to-day management functions take over. In our case the process of change will never stop, if only because in an intensely competitive environment like ours we can never take anything for granted.

An airline, for instance, which says: "We have the best reservations system (or catering, or passenger check-in, or anything else) in the world and no improvement is needed" is heading for a disagreeable shock, because somebody, somewhere, is planning to steal a march on it. The only way to keep ahead is to continue to improve our service.

That is why, to take a couple of examples, we have spent some £60 million in completely re-equipping the interiors of our 747 fleet to bring it up to the standards of the best of our competitors, and a further £25m on our new Club Europe and Club World products. These are designed to appeal especially to the business travellers who form such an important part of our traffic.

Throughout the years of change one of our objectives has been to render British Airways what I will call financially stormproof. Our new-found resilience was put to the test in the early summer of 1986, when what had looked like

being a buoyant year turned rapidly into a potential disaster. Beneath the twin impacts of international terrorism and the accident at Chernobyl our transatlantic business melted away.

Thanks to an imaginative, aggressive and highly successful marketing campaign we were able to weather the storm much better than most of our competitors — so much so that we ended the year with a satisfactory profit. But the episode illustrated how easily the economic climate in which we operate could turn chilly.

The key to survival in situations like this is flexibility. For example, we have pioneered the principle of operating leases for our aircraft. Put simply, this means that many of our aircraft are owned by financial consortia, and leased on terms that permit us to renew or terminate the agreement at pre-arranged intervals.

That means that we can adjust our fleet at relatively short notice to meet changing market demands, instead of being obliged to commit ourselves to long-term capital investment decisions.

Flexibility in staff numbers is equally important. We now have a nucleus of full-time air cabin crew who provide the essential year-round staffing levels, and we supplement them with support cabin crew, trained to the same standard, but called in to meet the varying needs of different routes.

The benefit in both cases is essentially the same. It enables us to step up capacity when demand is buoyant, and reduce it again relatively quickly and cheaply. This is the kind of thinking that must guide all our decisions from now on.

There has been, I repeat, nothing miraculous in our turnaround over the past few years. We simply brought to bear the basic management qualities of clear thinking, common sense and leadership, guided of course by a clear mental picture of what we wanted to achieve. If a company can be saved, then those qualities, together with a generous measure of hard work, are surely the only sound prescription for success.

Extracted from *Turnaround: How 20 Well Known Companies Came Back From the Brink*, edited by Rebecca Nelson with David Clutterbuck, published by Mercury Business Books (£12.95).

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Compsoft in £12m deal after recovery

By Michael Tate

The skills of two of the biggest names in the computer industry, Dr Geoff Bristow, once of ICL and Texas Instruments, and Dr Robb Wilmot, former ICL boss, have pulled the troubled Compsoft Holdings computer consultancy business back into the black.

And now Compsoft is buying another software business, Mega, in a complex deal that places a value of up to £12 million on Mega.

Compsoft, where Dr Bristow and Dr Wilmot, through their Octagon Industries consultancy and together with friends took a 29.9 per cent stake, had pre-tax profits of £161,000 for the first six months of 1988, compared with losses of £900,000 for the nine months to end-December. The company says a comparative figure for the corresponding six-month period would not be meaningful, in the light of the changes that have taken place.

"We're building a group with two arms," Dr Bristow says, one in niche professional services, the other a computer specialist. Mega fits with the latter, and brings in important new clients like Heron Corporation, Halfords, Dewhurst and Abbey National estate agencies.

The deal is structured so that Compsoft pays £4 million in shares initially, of which the vendors will keep half — representing 12 per cent of Compsoft. The rest will be offered to Compsoft shareholders, of whom Octagon, with its 29.9 per cent, and big institutional holders like the Prudential, with 11 per cent, and TR Technology with 10 per cent, have agreed to take up their share.

The rest is payable through what Dr Bristow calls "an all-or-nothing earn-out" over the next couple of years, and is likely to lead to the vendors increasing their stake up to the 30 per cent level. In the event of a disaster at the parent company, they could end up with 50 per cent, so the deal has been "whitewashed" by the Takeover Panel.

Mega, founded in 1983 and boasting doubled profits every year since, had been planning a USM flotation in October next year.

Altogether Compsoft shareholders will be offered 7.79 million new shares, on a one-for-three rights basis at 40p each. Compsoft shares, traded on the USM, were 1p easier at 45p yesterday.

Muted City reaction to £15m at Brent Walker

By Cliff Feltham

Mr George Walker, the former boxer, yesterday unveiled a sharp rise in profits at his growing Brent Walker Leisure group but unceasing surrounding allegations involving accounting practices caused a muted reaction in the stock market where the shares fell 7p to 375p.

Mr Walker, who thought his company might be the victim of a "smear campaign," disclosed a 106 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the first six months of this year to £15.3 million. He said acquisitions and organic growth were responsible for the cross-the-board improvement.

There is a 33 per cent rise in the interim dividend for shareholders, taking the payout to 4p. Turnover during the trading period was up by 130 per cent to just over £52 million.

But the fine performance was overshadowed by a prepared statement from the company confirming that defamation proceedings had been taken against a newspaper concerning allegations about sales by its film and television division.

Mr Walker — who declined to answer any questions concerning the transactions — said Simmons & Simmons, the City solicitor, and Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, were satisfied with the sales.

"The sales were treated by Brent Walker in its published accounts for the years ending 31 December 1986 and 1987 in accordance with generally accepted UK accounting principles," said the statement.

On the last occasion Mr Walker, aged 59, called a press conference to discuss his company's results, he had been confronted by disclosures about a prison sentence he had served more than 30 years ago. Yesterday he said he thought there was a smear campaign against the company.

He said he had no idea



Still fighting: George Walker yesterday, who feared that his company may have become the victim of a 'smear campaign' possibly aimed at its casino licences (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

whether it was aimed at causing difficulties with his casino licences, which had all been successfully renewed.

"I am just good copy. Left school at 14, ex-fighter. A lot of people have done a lot of hard work for this company. We are delighted with the performance. All this is taking effort away from a lot of nice people," he said.

Mr Walker said there are 3,000 potential buyers for the remaining 700 homes to be

built at its showpiece Brighton Marina and it has hired bricklayers and plumbers from Newcastle to meet its target of having the leisure complex open by 1992.

He is pushing ahead with redevelopment plans for the Trocadero in Piccadilly and has asked architects to prepare schemes for Elstree Film Studios, where it is buying a half share, and is likely to house its now profitable Goldcrest film operation and some of the

activities of its Trillion film business shortly to leave Limehouse Studios.

Mr Walker said the casinos bought from Lornho were performing better than expected. "We now run one of the most prestigious casino operations in Europe," he said. He confirmed a number of attractive offers had been received for some of the 386 pubs acquired from Grand Metropolitan. "We might sell some, but not all of them," he said.

Brewery blow for Clowes investors

By Lawrence Lever

There was further bad news for Barlow Clowes investors yesterday when the shares of Buckley's Brewery, the Welsh brewer, returned from suspension and promptly dropped 30p to 130p.

Barlow Clowes investors' money was used last year to help finance the purchase of 8.4 million Buckley's shares — 53 per cent of the company — by Brodian, a company of which Mr Peter Clowes, the head of Barlow Clowes, was a director and 75 per cent shareholder. Brodian paid up to 192p cash for the shares.

Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank, is selling the 53 per cent stake in Buckley's to recoup a loan of about £8 million, which it made to Brodian.

The stake is being put out to tender and a prospectus is expected to be sent to interested parties within the next fortnight, possibly as soon as next week.

The company's market capitalization at the 130p price is £20.75 million compared with £25.5 million when its listing was suspended on June 30 and the £30.6 million price tag put on it by last year's 192p share cash offer from Brodian.

The suspension of the company's listing came during the Barlow Clowes affair. Mr Clowes, the former head of Barlow Clowes and Mr Guy von Cramer, his then business associate, used Brodian as the vehicle to take over Buckley's last October.

Mr von Cramer says that he was unaware that any Barlow Clowes investors' money was used in relation to the bid.

Buckley's, which has shipped £763,000 into the red according to nine-month figures which were released on Thursday, is unlikely to remain independent for much longer.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Greeting card group makes £255,000 loss

Accord Publications, the greeting card group, made a loss of £255,000 in its seasonally poor first half. That compares with a £73,000 profit in the same period of 1987, when the group made a pre-tax profit of £954,000 for the full year. The direct costs of creating Network Greetings, an up-market range aimed at department stores, accounted for £224,000 of the loss, which is treated as an exceptional item.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 0.8p per share but the shares quickly dropped 8p to 95p. In the second half Accord will have a full contribution from Xpressions, bought in April.

Wintrust lifts Call to renew bank capital 'fraud' talks

Wintrust is trebling the capital of Wintrust Securities, its merchant banking subsidiary, to £12 million by subscribing a further £8 million. The parent company is converting its £6 million loan and putting up £2 million in cash. The overall effect will be to increase Wintrust Securities' capital employed to more than £24 million.

Profits slump at Ipeco

Shares in Ipeco Holdings, the maker of aircraft seats, fell by 7p to 46p as the group reported a pre-tax profits collapse to £540,000 from £1 million in the six months to July 2 and an interim dividend halved to 0.5p. The company's cargo handling equipment business, Airlec, made a loss of £734,000 at the operating level in the first half and another £104,000 since and is to be sold. This will give rise to a £1.5 million loss in the current year which will be treated as an extraordinary item.

Continuing activities saw profits slip from £1.17 million to £1.01 million, hit by the high dollar which clipped profits by about £500,000 and heavy investment costs as well as continuing start-up expenses from Ipeco's Polymeric Composites subsidiary. Profits in the core business, the aerospace division, which includes its aircraft seat manufacture business, fell slightly to £1.17 million from £1.2 million.

Hiatus over Fife Indmar purchase

Shareholders in Plantation Trust are being advised to sit tight pending the outcome of talks between their representatives and CDFC Trust, which this week launched a takeover bid valuing Plantation Trust at £9.9 million. CDFC already speaks for 44.9 per cent of Plantation Trust. City takeover rules obliged it to bid for the rest of Plantation and on Thursday it made a cash offer of 97p a share.

BP plans expansion

A planning application to increase the size of the BP gas processing plant on the Firth of Forth has been submitted to the local authority and a preliminary engineering design contract awarded for the project. The gas processing plant at Kinneil, near the BP refinery at Grangemouth, handles 700,000 tonnes of gas liquids from the North Sea each year. The planned expansion would double its capacity and provide 900 construction jobs and 30 permanent jobs. The plant handles gas liquids from several North Sea fields and is connected to the BP Forties pipeline system. The expansion of the plant would involve new export facilities at Grangemouth docks for the liquid gas products produced. BP will make a final decision on the £300 million project at the end of this year after talks with other North Sea oil producers who want to use the processing facilities. Work is likely to start early next year with completion scheduled for the end of 1991.

Unigroup returns to black

By Martin Waller

Unigroup, the timber products and clothing group, returned to pre-tax profits of £276,000 in the year to end-June.

This compares with £1.18 million lost over the previous 14 months. But the chairman, Mr James Malthouse, said the results did not fully reflect the effect of the restructuring which had taken place. There is again no dividend — the last

payment was at the end of 1986 — but the chairman added that an immediate priority was to return to the list, and a scheme of capital reconstruction would be sent to shareholders later this year.

Golden Pharos, which was acquired by the timber division last summer, made a first-time contribution to profits; all told continuing businesses made a dramatic £1.77

million turnaround to £868,000. The company reported no news on the two inquiries which are being conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Department is investigating dealings in the group's shares following a transaction made by the former chairman, Mr Ivor Goodman. Unigroup has sued Mr Goodman, who has counterclaimed.

British site possible for BASF research centre

The West German chemicals firm BASF is considering Britain as a site for the building of a DM130 million (£41 million) gene technology research centre.

Herr Ingo Paetzke, of BASF, said yesterday that, taking tightened German regulations into account, the company's old "law" of concentrating all its research at its headquarters in Ludwigshafen was "no longer unconditional." He said the BASF board would decide by the end of the year whether to build the centre in Ludwigshafen or go overseas. Under the new regulations, genetic research can proceed unhindered, but the approval process for production involves the publication of internal company documents. This would be "a catastrophe" for BASF, he said.

Midland Bank silent

By Rosemary Unsworth

Midland Bank made no comment yesterday about reports that it was negotiating with Citibank to buy the UK arm of Diners Club, the travel and entertainment charge card.

Diners, which has 300,000 customers and is accepted in 100,000 outlets in the UK, was

run as a joint venture with National Westminster until three years ago when the British bank sold out its near-50 per cent stake for £5 million.

Citibank, America's largest bank, has been divesting itself of Diners' foreign operations and sold the French franchise two months ago.

COMPANY BRIEFS

RURAL PLANNING (Int) Pre-tax: £0.33 (£0.24)m EPS: 3.3p (2.4p) Div: 1.0p (net)

PCT GROUP PLC (Int) Pre-tax: £0.38 (£0.22)m EPS: 7.6p (5.1p) Div: 1.9p (1.6p)

NTNH IND IMP TST (Fin) Pre-tax: £0.23 (£0.22)m EPS: 18.89p (18.25p) Div: 12.94p mkg 17.94p

Turnover £1.03 (£0.54)m. Healthy order book and prospects of an expanding market gives company confidence in full year success.

Turnover £8.94 (£8.21)m. Impact of seasonal holidays mostly in second half and company remains cautiously optimistic.

Profit after all charges, which includes tax £100,206 (£103,673)

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*on part investment only.
*as % of net cost to investors.

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LIG profit expected to fall as teenage Aids fears fade

By Martin Waller

The increase in the sales of condoms, which was running at 20 per cent a year in March, has slowed to as little as 5 per cent, a leading pharmaceuticals analyst said yesterday.

The Government's Aids warnings were not getting through, with the usage of condoms among teenagers most at risk still "disappointingly low," said Mr Ian White of Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker. This could be caused by either the decline in Government advertising this summer, or public boredom on the subject, Mr White speculated.

"The message is not getting through as well as it could," he said. "It was beginning to at the start of 1988, but has since faded away abruptly."

"The usage of condoms among promiscuous teenagers is still disappointingly low, at around 30 to 40 per cent."

In the long term the use of condoms could only increase, Mr White said, as the threat of Aids became more apparent. The Institute of Actuaries, the insurance industry body, recently estimated that within 10 years Aids could be the most common cause of death among young people.

By then, when almost everyone would be likely to have known somebody who had died of the disease, habits would certainly change, he said.

He was speaking as the City tried to assess the damage caused to London International Group, the manufacturer of Durex, by Thursday's profits warning by Mr Alan Woltz, the chairman and chief executive.

Mr Woltz told shareholders at the annual meeting in London that last year had seen



"Sales at a plateau": Alan Woltz, chairman of LIG

a dramatic increase in sales as demand mushroomed and retailers started building stocks.

Since then there had been "a period of stock adjustment," which had meant the market had settled back to a more modest rate of growth, and consequently interim profits would not match the £15 million last year.

The share price, which tumbled 20.5p to 199p on Thursday, slipped back another 3.5p

yesterday as analysts attempted to draw up realistic forecasts for the year to end-March.

Mr White has cut his own estimate by £3 million to £35 million, while stressing that this could still be out by as much as £2 million. As yet it was impossible to assess when retailers would start to stock up and LIG's sales would start to increase again, he said.

Other analysts' forecasts of LIG's profits are similar. Mr James Culverwell, of Hoare

Govett, forecast £35.5 million, but a couple of brokers have gone as low as £33 million pending further information from the company. Last financial year LIG made £27.11 million.

Mr Woltz said sales in Britain had reached a plateau, as retailers sold stock bought following last summer's Aids campaigns, although in the long term the prospect was of a slow but steady sales growth.

"We didn't know what to expect," Mr Woltz said. "We were in uncharted waters last year. People were buying condoms like they were buying insurance policies, making sure they had enough stock."

LIG's output, which last year increased by about half to meet the higher demand, had been maintained. There was no sign that the public was becoming unconcerned about the Aids threat, which he said had seen the proportion of contraceptive-using couples choosing condoms increase from 13 per cent to 20 per cent in recent years.

"People, however, take a long time to change their habits," he added.

Mr Woltz also told shareholders that a commitment of latex, the raw material used in the manufacture of condoms, had proved to be sub-standard in the United States. LIG had therefore had to scrap some of its production there.

But Mr Woltz was adamant that all the faulty condoms were detected at the testing stage. This came as good news to the City, which had initially blanched at the thought of potentially massive US legal actions.

As it is, Mr White said this could cut another £1 million or more from LIG's profits this year.

Rooke checked over Lasmo but finds a new king for Gas



KENNETH FLEET

The City is rarely taken completely by surprise, but it was on Tuesday when Hoare Govett, acting for British Gas, made a dawn raid on London & Scottish Marine Oil (Lasmo), and even more so on Wednesday when Lasmo said it would auction its 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil. The last two important British independent oil companies were suddenly in the firing line and the market in their shares was aghast.

For British Gas the raid was an embarrassing failure, bringing in only 1.14 per cent of Lasmo's shares. It was looking for something near to 15 per cent as a platform for launching a formal offer for Lasmo. It was left with egg on its face and a growing reputation for amateur incompetence as a player in the takeover game. British Gas at its bureaucratic heart may still be a nationalised industry, but it is finding the decision of Bob Evans, the chief executive, and Chris Brierley, the managing director in charge of acquisition strategy, to fly to Calgary on Tuesday, absconding themselves from the action and the post mortem.

None of this can have pleased Gas's formidable chairman, Sir Denis Rooke, left alone on the bridge, and in a corner. He has to decide whether to come out fighting, hurling a full bid at Lasmo, or charge off in a different direction by bidding for Lasmo's 25 per cent of Enterprise Oil.

Sir Denis did not take kindly to the Government's decision to strip British Gas of its oil interests which were repackaged as Enterprise Oil and privatised in June 1984. He has always wanted his ball back, although Enterprise Oil today is not the ball Mrs Thatcher took away from him.

The 1984 Enterprise Oil prospectus had all the character and charisma of

an investment trust; under Graham Hearne it has become a dynamic, efficient and profitable oil company and a model of management excellence. It has thrived as an independent, putting together assets that are the envy of the oil industry and looking to produce oil at the rate of 140,000 barrels a day in the mid-1990s.

Hearne and his talented team have seen the oil price come down from \$35 a barrel to \$8 in 1986 and back to \$14 today. They have also seen the Enterprise share price move from 185p at flotation to 670p, a shining performance even allowing for the bid premium.

Tuesday's dawn raid was designed to frustrate a pre-emptive move by Lasmo, but at a misconceived price of 480p. Lasmo shares finished the day at 544p. Sir Denis had decided to go for Lasmo, knowing that if he were successful he would pick up 25 per cent of Enterprise. He could then attempt to seduce Enterprise in leisurely fashion.

British Gas might now bid for Lasmo on condition that the auction of the Enterprise stake is withdrawn. But if I were advising Sir Denis I would tell him to put in the winning bid for Lasmo's 25 per cent Enterprise shareholding with a view to making a full bid. The Government might not like it, but once the golden share has gone, Cecil Parkinson would not betray Mrs Thatcher's free market principles

in order to put a knife into Sir Denis's back.

The virtue of taking Enterprise at a stiff price is not just its value as an oil company; it would also provide Sir Denis with a successor. This week has finally proved he has not got anyone in British Gas remotely capable of carrying out the high ambitions for acquisitions, diversified development and growth set out in the Gas prospectus 18 months ago. Graham Hearne would be ideal.

At the age of 50 he has a record that covers not only the oil industry (the state-owned British National Oil Corporation as well as the independents), but also a legal training and stints with the Industrial Reorganization Corporation, Rothschilds and Courtaulds. He has Midlands origins, a quick brain and a reputation as "a bit of a street fighter." He admires Rooke for his complete dedication to British Gas and they get on well.

Sir Denis is plainly not at home in the private sector, foreshadowing the City and is scared by the oil industry which, given half a chance, will flay its opponents alive. Hearne has none of these disadvantages, and after five glorious years with Enterprise and sensing, though he would not admit it, that the British independent oil sector is about to vanish, he is ready for a new challenge. He is also capable of fighting off a bid and willing to take Enterprise into another exhilarating growth phase.

Certainly Hearne is the most relaxed of the four main characters in this week's oil drama, as he contemplates various options (bidding for Lasmo, buying his own shares, finding a friendly buyer, diluting Lasmo's holding with a big bid in Enterprise's valuable paper) in the knowledge that ICI, with 25 per cent, is committed to him.

A test of strength for French bonhomie

I hope all shareholders in Sun Life, but especially UK insurance companies, will examine Sun Life's proposals to form "a strategic alliance" with the French Government-owned UAP Group with the utmost diligence and an open mind.

Shareholders are being asked on September 29 to vote on a deal that might reasonably be expected, on first reading, to bring some benefits to Sun Life in that it will help the company to increase its business in the continental European market. But the basic object seems to be to dilute the 26 per cent shareholding of the South African Liberty Life Group and to build in added protection for the existing board and management - a mistake if they do not think that UAP, if it wanted to, would not find a way to oust them.

Some shareholders may think this is

an excellent idea but the issue should be fairly and openly put. Even more important, shareholders should understand the price they are being asked to pay for an unsuccessful attempt to get Mr Donald Gordon, head of Liberty, off the back of Mr Peter Grant, the Sun Life chairman.

For a start, the bid premium in the Sun Life share price is likely to shrink so that all shareholders face the prospect of a fall in the value of their investment as well as the privilege of having their holding diluted.

Emotions and personal rivalries aside, the UAP agreement looks decidedly one-sided. Sun Life versus the French Government? Surely a mismatch: an agreement to have 50-50 new ventures in Spain and Italy but no interest for Sun Life in UAP's existing businesses. Will UAP let Sun Life

become a serious competitor in Europe? French charity does not usually extend so far. Not even for Sun Life, which is opening the door in London for nothing, and as a measure of goodwill contenting itself with five years of fixed income (77/8) on UAP convertible notes.

Allied with an investment of £50 million in Europe in an inevitably slow-maturing business like life assurance, Sun Life is not going to get any real financial return out of the European opportunities it sees for at least the length of the agreement with UAP.

Is the UAP deal the right way to resolve Sun Life's problem with its largest shareholder? I think not. And who knows, the life insurance establishment, confronted as shareholders with this one-sided agreement may find their consciences troubling them enough to vote against.

Coles Myer soars to Aus\$328m

From Our Correspondent Sydney

Australia's leading retailer, Coles Myer, significantly surpassed market expectations with a net profit of Aus\$328 million (£45.6 million), 50 per cent more than in 1986-87.

Tax totalled Aus\$242 million (Aus\$198 million) and interest was Aus\$123 million (Aus\$118 million).

Shareholders were rewarded with a one-for-eight tax-free bonus issue and a final dividend, payable on the expanded capital, of 20 cents. Total dividend for the year was 32 cents (24 cents). Earnings per share rose 24 cents, to 72 cents.

Mr Brian Quinn, the chief executive, said that the revaluation of the company's properties had boosted the balance sheet by Aus\$300 million to Aus\$1.6 billion.

The company would sell further property, valued at around Aus\$100 million, this financial year, Mr Quinn said. This compares with property sales of Aus\$182 million in 1986-87 and Aus\$262 million in 1985-86.

"However, we will be keeping the blue-chip property, which has the potential for further capital gain," he said.

Excluding property gains, profits rose 34 per cent to Aus\$280 million on sales up 12 per cent to Aus\$13 billion, a result Mr Quinn described as "sluggish".

Analysts believe Coles Myer wants to buy in Britain. Mr Quinn would not confirm this, but did say that the European Economic Community's de-regulation by 1992 made Europe "attractive".

Wace Group pays \$56m for its first overseas purchase

By Our City Staff

Wace Group, the fast-expanding pre-press and printing specialist, has made its biggest acquisition yet and its first move overseas with the \$56 million (£33.4 million) purchase of the Chicago Techtron Holding Company.

Techtron is the largest colour pre-press services group in the US, and Wace is funding the deal with a \$32.8 million 1-for-2 rights issue at 260p.

Mr John Clegg, joint managing director of Wace, said: "We will be the only pre-press group not only able to transfer material around America but also across the Atlantic." Techtron has 12 operating units in the US with headquarters in Chicago.

Techtron's turnover of \$83 million in the year to end-

February is comparable in size to Wace's own, but it has been going through a period of declining profitability since it was bought out of the Bearcorp group by its management almost five years ago. The buy-out saddled it with \$33 million of long-term debt and coincided with a period of fast technological change which it was unable to keep up with, said Mr Clegg.

Wace is repaying this debt and buying out the Techtron shareholders, which include two large US institutions, for \$23 million. The management, who have agreed to stay with the company, are taking around a third of their payment in the form of 534,000 new Wace shares.

Mr Clegg said the company

had had two other approaches, from American companies, at higher prices but had preferred to go with Wace.

"We believe we have got the right ingredients to improve its current margins and to bring about substantial growth in the United States."

A long-term aim would be to move into areas such as colour laboratories and printing where Wace is already represented in this country.

The British company, which has made 24 acquisitions over the past two years in the UK, will continue to look for its first foothold in Europe, although Mr Clegg conceded this was now a lower priority.

Its shares lost 14p to 293p on news of the rights.

BHP boosted by steel record

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Record steel earnings helped BHP, Australia's largest company, to a 4 per cent profit rise to Aus\$ 243 million (£116 million) for its first quarter ending August 31.

Steel contributed Aus\$ 93 million, 130 per cent more than a year ago and well up on the market's anticipation of Aus\$ 70 million.

But a stronger Australian dollar and lower crude oil prices reduced earnings in the petroleum division, usually the most profitable sector, by Aus\$ 20 million to Aus\$ 80 million.

Oil analysts said that the depressed world oil price was aggravating the division's

problem of decreasing Bass Strait output and rising exploration costs. They suspect that group profits for the 1988-89 financial year will be retarded by the division.

But directors said such adverse trends were already being partially offset by higher Timor Sea production and production due early next year from the North West Shelf field, off Western Australia.

Group sales fell marginally from Aus\$ 2.68 billion to Aus\$ 2.65 billion but operating revenue rose 8 per cent to Aus\$ 2.6 billion. Earnings per share rose 28 per cent to 19.1 cents.

A half-yearly dividend of 17

cents (15 cents) was declared, payable on November 30.

Directors said improvements in metal prices, gold output and a lower Australian corporate tax rate (down 11 per cent to 39 per cent) had offset the higher exchange rate.

The assets sale, initiated to accommodate the exits of Mr Robert Holmes a Court (Bell Group) and Mr John Elliott (Elders IXL) from the miners' register, had realized more than Aus\$ 1 billion.

Tax totalled Aus\$ 136 million compared with Aus\$ 162 million previously, and depreciation was Aus\$ 210 million (Aus\$ 182 million).

New body for auditors proposed

By Carol Ferguson

A group of Scottish chartered accountants, concerned about the proposals to create a new British Institute of Chartered Accountants by dismantling and merging the English and Scottish institutes, has come up with proposals which it believes will meet the criticism levelled at the profession.

The Scots accept the need for a unified profession to maintain the right to self-regulation and to keep a significant influence on regulatory matters.

However, they see no need to tear down the existing structure of the profession, and recommend instead the setting up of a Joint Authorisation and Regulatory Unit to meet whatever monitoring and control requirements flow from Europe.

They believe this body should initially be set up by the Scottish and English institutes, and would seek their views. But it would be independent, and would not be required to report to either institute's council.

Disposals lift Local London

By Graham Searjeant

Doubled profits from disposals and sale and leaseback helped Local London, the property group specializing in short-let business centres, to boost pre-tax profits by 120 per cent to £5.3 million in the first half of 1988.

The interim dividend is up a third from 3p to 4p and earnings per share rose from 10.3p to 18.2p despite the rights issues. The shares, which moved from the USM to full listing in June, gained a further 3p to 260p.

Operating profits from rents and service fees, including the

core business of licensing service suites in business centres, improved by 7 per cent to £2.2 million on revenue of £6 million. The company says margins on the business centres have been maintained and that licensing at the latest centre in Kingston, South-west London, is progressing satisfactorily.

Earlier in the year, the group bought two sites in Hammer-smith and adjacent to its Kingston centre for development and another two properties have been bought since June for conversion into

business centres.

Income from disposals and sales and leasebacks jumped from £1.9 million to £5.4 million, partly from trading in an acquired residential portfolio in a buoyant market. These profits do not include a net surplus of £1.7 million from sale of investment properties less listing expenses, which are treated as an extraordinary item.

Sale of a 2.8-acre joint venture riverside site in Fulham, West London, will contribute to second-half results.

US objects to 1992 reforms as Brussels attacks 'protectionist' trade bills

Congress prepares for war with Europe

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Trade tensions between the US and Europe are rising more quickly than those which have characterized the stormy US-Japan relationship, as the Reagan Administration and Congress take strong exception to the EEC's proposed 1992 reforms.

A separate battle is brewing over agricultural and textile issues, bringing the number of "hot spots" to a level which prompted one congressional official to remark that he cannot recall hearing so many anti-European comments on Capitol Hill.

Tensions are equally acute in Europe, where EEC officials have expressed their disgust and concern over passage of an omnibus US trade bill considered dangerously protectionist, and the imminent passage of a textile bill which could severely restrict EEC exports to the US.

Britain, which remains a large exporter of textile products, could be especially hard hit by the broad new global textile quotas contained in both the US House and Senate versions of the Textile Bill.

For example, last year the EEC exported textile yarns and fabrics valued at 1.5 billion ecu (£980 million) to the US, of which the UK accounted for 234 million ecu. EEC clothing and accessories exports were



De Clerq: warning for the US

valued at 1.55 billion ecu, and the UK's share was 205 million ecu.

The potential for a blow-up after the US presidential elections in November looms large. Another issue adding to the tension is the approaching review of the Uruguay Trade Round, which will be held in early December in Montreal. It will be the first round held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to deal with the sensitive issue

of agriculture and the reduction of world subsidies.

In unusually strong language, US officials have accused EEC officials of blocking all progress in the agricultural talks by refusing to budge on the issue of phasing out global subsidies.

"There has been movement, but with one exception. We are not seeing any movement from Brussels," said Mr Daniel Amstutz, the chief US agricultural negotiator.

Privately, US officials said that they believe the EEC has chosen this time to flex its muscles because of the lame-duck status of the Reagan Administration and the belief that a new US president will be slow to act on agriculture.

"It is the same old story," said a disgruntled official. "We want a complete phasing out of subsidies, and the Europeans are using every stalling tactic available to make sure that this does not happen."

The criticism from Brussels is equally harsh. Added to the Senate version of the Textile Bill passed last week was an amendment which raised the ire of EEC officials. For the first time, the Senate, bowing to pressure from the strong US farm lobby, linked textile quotas to purchases of US agricultural products.

"In essence, the amendment said:

"If you do not import US agricultural products, then the US will not import your textiles," an EEC official said.

Mr Willy de Clerq, the EEC's external relations commissioner, gave a warning that the legislation would trigger retaliatory measures encompassing much more than agriculture, and urged President Reagan to act on his promise to veto the bill.

He said that the legislation, following so closely the omnibus trade legislation, demonstrated that the US was turning dangerously protectionist, and that the Uruguay Trade Round was in jeopardy.

House and Senate officials must now go to conference to resolve their differences on the Textile Bill before it can be passed and sent to the President.

Whatever the outcome, however, there is little disagreement that support for protectionist measures is growing in the US, and that trade will be a burning issue in the next Congress.

US legislators fear that the "Fortress Europe" attitude expressed by some EEC officials will undermine US industries attempting to expand into new markets. And the US banking and financial service industries stand to lose the most, say congressmen working to deregulate the industry.

PERGAMON PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL SERVICES plc

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

On 31st August, 1988 Pergamon Professional & Financial Services plc ("Pergamon") announced the proposed acquisition of AGB Research PLC to be effected by way of recommended offers made on behalf of Pergamon. The Offers and certain related matters are conditional upon the approval of Pergamon shareholders. Details of the proposed acquisition are contained in the Offer Document, in a circular to Pergamon shareholders (which also contains the Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for 10th October, 1988) and in Listing Particulars dated 16th September, 1988.

In the light of the current disruption to postal services, arrangements have been made for delivery of the circular and Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting to shareholders by alternative means. Should any shareholder not receive a copy of the circular and Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting by 18th September, 1988, they are advised to contact the Company Secretary at Pergamon at Ormeau House, 1 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3AR or telephone 01-462 3002. Additionally, copies of the circular and Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting are available for collection from the registered office of the Company and from Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, 100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2JL.

The Notice convening the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 10th October, 1988 is reproduced in full below.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Pergamon Professional & Financial Services plc will be held at The Rutland, The Mirror Building, 35 Holborn, London EC1P 1DQ on 10th October, 1988 at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Resolutions, of which Resolution 1 will be proposed as an Ordinary Resolution and Resolutions 2, 3 and 4 will be proposed as Special Resolutions:-

ORDINARY RESOLUTION

1. THAT the acquisition by the Company of the ordinary and convertible preference share capital of AGB Research PLC (or any part thereof), pursuant to the offers described in the Circular to shareholders dated 16th September, 1988 ("the Circular") and any increased, revised, amended, additional or other offer approved by the Directors for each capital or any part thereof ("the Offer") be and is hereby approved, and that, subject to the Offers becoming unconditional in all respects save as to the passing of this Resolution:-

(i) the authorised share capital of the Company be increased from £16,340,000 to £18,600,000 by the creation of 50,000,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each ranking *pari passu* in all respects with the existing Ordinary shares of 50p each in the share capital of the Company;

(ii) the Directors be and they are hereby authorised to base up to £2,500,000 in nominal amount of 7.5p Convertible Subordinated Loan Stock Units 2002 to be constituted by a Supplemental Trust Deed to be entered into by the Company with the Law Debenture Trust Corporation plc as produced to the Meeting and signed for the purposes of identification by the Chairman thereof; and

(iii) the Directors of the Company be and they are hereby authorised generally and unconditionally for the purpose of section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 to allot relevant securities (as defined in section 80(2) of that Act) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £2,250,000 provided that this authority shall expire five years from the date of the passing of this Resolution save that the Company may make an offer or agreement before the expiry of this authority which would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot relevant securities pursuant thereto as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired, such authority to be in addition to and without prejudice to the existing authority conferred on the Directors pursuant to section 80 of the Companies Act 1985 by the Resolution passed on 28th May, 1988.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

2. THAT the agreement dated 14th September, 1988 between the Company and Pergamon Holdings Limited described in the Circular, relating to the subscription by Pergamon Holdings Limited for 7.5p Convertible Subordinated Loan Stock Units 2002, be and is hereby approved, and that, subject to the Offers becoming unconditional in all respects, the Directors be granted power pursuant to section 95 of the Companies Act 1985 to allot up to £2,497,649.43 in nominal amount of 7.5p Convertible Subordinated Loan Stock Units 2002 to Pergamon Holdings Limited pursuant to the said agreement as if section 89(1) of the said Act did not apply thereto;

3. THAT the Directors be and they are hereby authorised to do all such acts and things as may be necessary or expedient to give effect to the acquisition of the Company by Hill Samuel & Co. Limited, and subject to the issue by the Registrar of Companies of a Certificate of Incorporation upon Change of Name, the name of the Company be changed to "Pergamon AGB plc";

4. THAT Article 102(B) of the Articles of Association of the Company be altered by the deletion of the amount of £40,000,000 as shown therein and the insertion of the amount of £250,000,000 in its stead.

Heddingham Hall Hall,
Oxford OX3 0BW,
16th September, 1988

By ORDER OF THE BOARD
D. G. HANTON
Secretary

NOTES:

1. A Member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting may appoint another person as his proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote at the Meeting. A proxy need not also be a Member of the Company.

2. To be effective, Forms of Proxy must be duly completed and returned so as to reach Hill Samuel Registrars Limited, 6 Grosvenor Place, London SW1P 1YU, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the Meeting, or adjourned Meeting, as the case may be.

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

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MONEY MARKETS

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Currency

IF YOU WANT
TO GET AHEAD,
GET
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Quiet end to account

Prices recorded are at 4pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 20).

Portfolio
— PLUS NEW —
Accumulator
© Times Newspapers Limited
WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000
Claims required for 211 points
ACCUMULATOR £210,000
Claims better than 211 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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26	Billy Martin	250	0	-2	226
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28	Barry Manilow	113	0	0	113
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100	Barry Manilow	113	0	0	113

[illegible]

373	Polysar (Waters)	318	323	-2	12.7	4.0	15.2
374	Raychem	290	292	-2	12.7	4.0	15.2
375	Takathene	290	292	-2	12.7	4.0	15.2
376	Tennelco	290	292	-2	12.7	4.0	15.2

SHOES, LEATHER

5	77	Headline Shoes	73	80	+7	1.3	1.7	21.0
5	77	Headline Shoes	73	80	+7	1.3	1.7	21.0
115	145	Portland/Hampshire	128	138	+10	11.3	8.5	4.8
145	145	Portland	128	138	+10	11.3	8.5	4.8
225	225	Style & Fashion	230	230	0	6.7	2.2	8.8

TEXTILES

350	350	Allied Text	350	355	+5	12.8	3.5	16.0
350	350	Rock Lumber	350	355	+5	12.8	3.5	16.0
107	107	Johnson (A)	118	115	-3	7.9	7.0	11.2
107	107	Johnson	118	115	-3	7.9	7.0	11.2
205	205	Johnson	205	205	0	10.0	4.8	8.0

36	Corah	75	96	27	81
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98	Corah	75	96	27	81
99	Corah	75	96	27	81
100	Corah	75	96	27	81

TOBACCO								
33	399	GAT (sq)	641	443	+1 1/2	24.0	5.4	9.1
39	128	Carrill	138	148	+4			
57	365	Rothmans' T' (sq)	470	472	+1	13.3	3.2	8.9

FAMILY MONEY

Big lenders in great rates rush

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
BANKS				
Fixed Term Deposits:				
1 year	4.00	4.04	3.23	none/none 7 day
2 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
3 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
4 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
5 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
Overnight	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
1 month	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
3 months	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
6 months	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
1 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
2 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
3 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
4 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567
5 year	7.75	8.03	6.42	2,500-25,000 1 mth 01-828 1567

HIGH INTEREST CREDIT ACCOUNTS				
Bank of Scotland	8.13	8.45	6.76	2,500-no max none 031-442 7777
Barclays	7.63	7.85	6.28	2,500-no max none 0804 228891
Co-operative	8.15	8.37	6.76	500-no max none 01 828 6543
City & Savoy	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 968 2078
City of London	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
Lloyds Bank	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
Midland	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
North Western	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
Paragon	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
TSB	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000
TSB England & Wales	8.15	8.37	6.76	1,000-no max none 01 407 1000

BUILDING SOCIETIES - Ordinary Share				
Barclays	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
Co-operative	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
City & Savoy	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
City of London	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
Lloyds Bank	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
Midland	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
North Western	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
Paragon	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
TSB	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min
TSB England & Wales	4.75	4.75	3.80	1 min

Best buy - all socs				
Barclays	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
Co-operative	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
City & Savoy	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
City of London	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
Lloyds Bank	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
Midland	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
North Western	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
Paragon	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
TSB	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day
TSB England & Wales	8.00	8.16	6.32	500 min 30 day

Current Accounts				
Barclays	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
Co-operative	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
City & Savoy	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
City of London	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
Lloyds Bank	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
Midland	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
North Western	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
Paragon	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
TSB	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min
TSB England & Wales	4.25	4.25	3.40	1 min

NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Barclays	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
Co-operative	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
City & Savoy	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
City of London	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
Lloyds Bank	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
Midland	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
North Western	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
Paragon	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
TSB	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
TSB England & Wales	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				
Barclays	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
Co-operative	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
City & Savoy	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
City of London	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
Lloyds Bank	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
Midland	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
North Western	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
Paragon	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
TSB	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700
TSB England & Wales	9.50	9.50	7.50	2,000 min 1 yr 01 567 0700

RP (August 87-88)				
Barclays	+5.7%			
Co-operative	+5.7%			
City & Savoy	+5.7%			
City of London	+5.7%			
Lloyds Bank	+5.7%			
Midland	+5.7%			
North Western	+5.7%			
Paragon	+5.7%			
TSB	+5.7%			
TSB England & Wales	+5.7%			

LARGER LENDERS				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

INSURANCE COMPANY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
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Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

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Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
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Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
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City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
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Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

PROPERTY				
Barclays	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Co-operative	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City & Savoy	11.50	To £25,000	100	
City of London	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Lloyds Bank	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Midland	11.50	To £25,000	100	
North Western	11.50	To £25,000	100	
Paragon	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB	11.50	To £25,000	100	
TSB England & Wales	11.50	To £25,000	100	

The dam burst on the mortgage front this week as Barclays Bank led the rush to higher rates, writes Vivien Goldsmith. But with higher mortgage payments comes the consolation for savers that investment rates are also on the way up.

Barclays moved its mortgage rate from 11.8 to 13 per cent. It was quickly followed by the TSB, which moved to 13 per cent for endowment mortgages and 13.2 per cent for repayment mortgages. Then the Midland Bank pushed up its rate from 11.6 to 13.2 per cent.

This is an annual percentage rate of 14 per cent will increase the monthly cost of a £30,000 repayment mortgage over 25 years by £25 and bring it to £270.50.

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The Bank of Scotland has also moved its rate - up from 11.5 to 13 per cent.

Midland still has funds available for mortgages at a fixed rate of 11.2 per cent for three years, but the loans have to be endowment mortgages with life policies arranged through Midland Life.

The Sanitome Bank, lending only in London and the South-East, has raised its rate to 12.5 per cent. The building societies are all looking for a mortgage increase to take effect from October 1, and will announce their new rates in the coming week.

More than a third of building society borrowers, 37 per cent, now have mortgages that are adjusted

FAMILY MONEY

Mortgage crunch



Heather and Adam: For them a property is now a problem

Home-sharers who have lost a tax saving

Heather Falconer and Adam McDonald are typical of the thousands of new home-sharers who rushed into the housing market this summer to beat the Budget clampdown on tax relief for multiple mortgages.

Heather, a 23-year-old journalist, and Adam, a 25-year-old computer analyst, are platonic flat-sharers, not like the co-habiting couples who took advantage of a tax system that allowed them two lots of mortgage interest tax relief by remaining unmarried. They both earn less than £15,000 a year. They saw their move as the only way they could get into the London housing market.

This summer they bought a £72,500 two-bedroom flat in Tooting with a 100 per cent Bank of Scotland mortgage equally shared. Interest rates were low and they qualified for tax relief on up to £30,000 each. But heavily increased repayments due to the rapid rise in interest rates since then have wiped out the tax saving made by beating the deadline.

Adam says: "We saved about £30 a month each by qualifying for the tax relief. But our bank mortgage rate has risen from 9.6 to 11.5 per cent and I am expecting a rise next month to perhaps 13 per cent. This will cost us an extra £80 a month each from the time we took out the loan."

Heather says: "I shall have to economize on things like holidays and eating out since the mortgage and rates on my share of the flat will take about half my salary each month now."

Both, however, believe they did the right thing. Adam says: "Even if we had not managed to beat the deadline, I would still be looking to buy."

However, Heather, who earns less than Adam, says: "I suppose I vaguely knew that mortgage rates went up and down. But I didn't really think about it too much. Certainly the bank never discussed it as a serious prospect. At the time we were looking everyone was

eager to lend. After the Budget there was enormous pressure to buy quickly."

How many other new buyers faced with increased payments up to 13 per cent feel like Heather? Should lenders, when arranging a mortgage, show prospective purchasers exactly how much the loan would cost if rates changed?

Heather thinks they should. But that, of course, does not make the deal sound as attractive as possible. Adam says: "That is the whole attitude to selling all kinds of credit at the moment. And when it comes to mortgages the lender always knows it can get the bricks and mortar in case of default."

Adrian Coles, at the Building Societies Association, says: "There is an obligation to make it clear that interest rates are variable. But don't people understand this anyway?" He points out that around 40 per cent of people with mortgages are now in annual review systems. Their repayments are changed just once a year to adjust for the ups and downs — largely, one might add, for the lender's administrative convenience.

We are likely to see more fixed-rate mortgages on similar lines to the one announced by the Abbey National Building Society. It is offering a mortgage at 11.3 per cent fixed for three years.

An Abbey National spokesman said: "After the Budget there was a large amount of business from people trying to beat the August deadline. We became aware that many had brought their home-buying decisions forward because of it. Hopefully, we acted responsibly when we lent them the money. Under the Financial Services Act we have a responsibility to point out that rates can change."

"In the light of what has happened to interest rates perhaps this isn't enough. I think there may be case for putting greater emphasis on this."

Maggie Drummond

The cost of a mortgage has been rising like a hot air balloon this summer, and it threatens to move further into the stratosphere. The standard loan has already gone to 11.5 per cent, and most forecasts suggest it will be 13 per cent on October 1. At 13 per cent, the cost of monthly repayments on a £60,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years will be £52 higher than it was three months ago.

Such sharp increases certainly weaken the attractions of low-cost endowment mortgages. If you have an endowment-linked loan, you certainly cannot extend the loan, paying the same sum over a longer period, as you can with the alternative repayment mortgage. At the same time, the more interest rates rise, the more low-cost endowments start to lose their financial attraction.

Figures from Legal & General show that repayment loans start to be cheaper at an interest rate of 10 per cent without life cover. The crossover point is about 13 per cent if you have cover.

Endowment mortgages account for 65 to 70 per cent of all new home loans — a sure sign that people want them, say the lenders. That is one explanation. The other is that banks and building societies are keen to sell them, partly for the commission they generate. Last year the building societies received £400 million from insurance commission overall, the great bulk of it from life policies linked to mortgages.

Repayment mortgages certainly came first. Once you have borrowed your money, your monthly mortgage payments consist partly of the original capital and partly of the interest on it. Most borrowers are now covered by the MIRAS system, ensuring that you get mortgage tax relief automatically, at least at basic rate. It also usually means that the balance of capital you repay and the interest on it remain the same.

You certainly do not have to leave your family with a burden of potential repayments if you die early. You can take out a life policy called declining term assurance, whose value falls in line with your debt. Insurers, though, prefer to sell you a more expensive contract, under which the potential payout is the same as what you borrow, and does not alter, as you pay off your debt.

Endowment mortgages work differently. You take out your loan and a life policy due to mature just when the mortgage is due to end. You pay the interest on the mortgage, collecting full tax relief, until finally repayment is due. At that point the life policy pays out, and you use most of the money to repay what you borrowed originally. Until now policies have paid a substantial sum on top.

There is the risk that the life policy will not provide all you need, and you have to make

Rising interest rates throughout the summer have complicated the borrower's choice of the right type of home loan. Tom Tickell reports

up the shortfall. But it certainly has not happened yet. On average, people move house every four or five years. When that happens, they usually pay off the mortgage from the proceeds of the house sold, taking another loan on the new property. They can always extend the life insurance to mature when the new mortgage is due to end.

When endowment mortgages first appeared, tax relief on the life insurance — at half the basic tax rate — ensured they were competitive. That life insurance tax relief has long since gone, but they remain competitive, because the original assumptions have changed.

Nowadays, lenders are happy to sell low-cost endowments, which assume that life companies will pay at least 80 per cent of the present annual

bonuses they provide for the next 20 or 25 years. One or two insurers are more upbeat still. The bonus rate assumptions look optimistic. Bonus rates are still high, despite October's crash, but there is certainly no future guarantee they will stay close to rates fixed in the wake of 14 or 15 good investment years.

There are other worries, including the impact of AIDS. No one knows what the death rates will be, and the Government Actuary recently produced three estimates — optimistic, median and pessimistic. Almost all the insurance companies except Legal & General have made provisions based on the most optimistic forecasts. If they are wrong, bonus rates may be affected.

Finally comes taxation. The Government intends to alter

at least some of the very favourable tax treatment that life insurance companies enjoy. A White Paper is due very soon, and according to some City estimates, life companies may end up with a tax bill three times their present one. Again, bonuses may suffer.

All those factors will tend to reduce the annual bonus rates and so cut the insurance proceeds from which you can repay your loan. But there is a hidden layer of fat.

Every life company now pays a farewell present as your policy matures, known chillingly as a terminal bonus. That used to be just the icing on the cake, worth perhaps 5 per cent of the overall value. It now amounts on average to between 35 and 45 per cent of the total policy proceeds, though the figures have certainly come down recently.

No one can forecast how endowment mortgages will do over 20 or 25 years but they look a less attractive long-term bet than they did particularly when they are so inflexible if you run into financial difficulties.

They certainly suit some people but are not the panacea that banks and building societies like to believe.

HOW IT WORKS

£30,000 mortgage over 25 years for 30-year-old

	12.75%	13%
Repayment loan with basic life cover	£277.30 (incl £10.90 life cover)	£281.20 (incl £10.90 life cover)
Endowment	£276.46	£281.15

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Pricing: Units will be purchased or redeemed at a forward price i.e. the price determined from the next valuation after receipt of postal or telephone instructions by Fidelity. For details placed over a weekend units will be allocated or redeemed at the price determined on the next business day. The Manager's discretion to vary the pricing basis of units is limited to that which is permitted under the Authorised Unit Trust Scheme (Pricing of Units and Dealing by Trustee and Manager) Regulations 1988. Prices are published daily in leading newspapers and on Oracle p. 574 and Pressed 1481506.
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Tax: Any income accruing to these units is accumulated net of basic rate income tax. A tax credit reflecting this will be sent to the investor. For higher rate taxpayers, the gross amount of income accruing to the units will be assessed along with any other income received and will be subject to income tax at the higher rate. Non-taxpayers may reclaim income tax paid from the Inland Revenue. Capital gains arising on the redemption of units are liable to capital gains tax if, together with other net gains and other income, they exceed the current annual allowance of £5,000 (shared between husband and wife). The rate of capital gains tax will be equivalent to your top rate of income. Non U.K. taxpayers should seek advice on their liability.
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FAMILY MONEY

How renting can mean easy money and hard lessons

Sonja Welker, who owns a four-bedroom house in north London, has been offered a job in the travel business in the United States. "It is too good a chance to miss," she says, "but I really want to hang on to my home and I want to come back to it."

However, she found that the idea of renting her property was not as simple as it seemed.

She soon realized that her initial plan to find her own tenants and then get a friend to collect the rent was totally impractical.

"Even a burst pipe can seem like a major disaster when you are 3,000 miles away," she said. "So can a rent cheque that bounces. You need to know there is someone who is completely responsible."

Local estate agents often deal with the letting as well as the selling of property. Alternatively, they can direct you to specialist property management companies, but the commissions they charge can be high.

"One company quoted me 8 per cent of rental plus VAT but for this they would only have found a tenant, asked for references and seen them on and off the premises," said Miss Welker. "They weren't actually going to manage things at all."

What she wanted was a firm that would also collect rent and pay it into her account, deal with emergencies and generally keep an eye on things. For this most companies charged around 15 per cent plus VAT. Some also added an initial £100 fee.

Luckily a local estate agent recommended a small businessman working from home who dealt with about 17 properties in her immediate area. It was a cheaper alternative, as he charged only an

all-in 10 per cent. She also felt the size of his operation meant that he cared more about individual properties. "He said he collected the rent in person every month, which gave him a chance to look around. I found this very comforting," she said.

However, he did say he could not guarantee to find tenants. It is worth noting that although most approved tenancy agreements — and these should be checked by a lawyer — stipulate a set period of time for rental, they still allow the tenant to leave giving only one month's notice. Those that stipulate longer are in any case hard to enforce, as a legal battle will cost more than the lost rent.

John and Linda Wright rented their house in Reading, Berkshire, while John took up a post as a civil engineer in Bahrain. "Four months before we were due to return, our tenants walked out," said John. "The property management company couldn't find

Large company has more tenants

replacements, so we were left to find four months' rates and mortgage with no money coming in."

Prudential Property Services, a wing of the insurance company, claims that this would rarely happen with a property in its care because a large company has more potential tenants on its books. "We are the biggest letting agency in the capital," said Christine Davis, director of the London office, "and we can readily provide 'blue chip' tenants from a whole list of companies."

Nevertheless, property owners have to be realistic

about the kind of tenants their house will attract. "Everybody wants a visiting diplomat and his family," says Peter Gormley, of PG Estates, property managers, "but the diplomat or a highly paid company executive only wants to live in the best areas, like Hampstead or Kensington, if they are coming to London."

"Owners may know that Brixton is an up and coming area but it won't impress potential tenants."

Students, he says, are not to be recommended as tenants because they are erratic in paying the rent. The best solution is to find a group of young professionals who are themselves waiting to get on to the property market.

But he warns that tenants may not treat your house as well as you do. "If people really value something, they should store it," said Mr Gormley. "However, they should remember that the more mod cons they have in their home, such as a TV or washing machine, the more rent they are likely to attract."

Miss Davis says: "The easiest property to rent is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom flat, although we do rent anything up to a six-bedroom house."

In London you can expect between £35 and £80 per bedroom, depending on the location and condition of your house. In the provinces the figure is £30-£70.

"At the end of the day, once expenses are paid, anyone who makes a return of 8 per cent from rental income should consider that they are doing extremely well," said Mr Gormley.

The role of the tax man in all this should not, of course, be forgotten. Broadly speaking, rent from property you let



A job in the United States and a house to let suddenly pose a problem for Sonja Welker

is seen as investment income and taxed accordingly.

For the purposes of your tax bill you add up all your outgoing in one column, including commission paid to property management companies, rates, insurance, legal fees incurred in letting property and any repairs you make. What remains is taxable at the basic tax rate or higher, depending on your overall income.

Building society must be told

As far as mortgage tax relief is concerned, the Inland Revenue tends to take a fairly lenient attitude and allows you to keep claiming the relief as long as it is sure you are not out of the country to avoid tax and that you do intend to return, and that it is your family home in the UK and not merely an investment.

Nevertheless, if you do intend to go abroad, your building society must be told. The Cheltenham & Gloucester says it makes those leaving fill in a fairly thorough questionnaire.

"What we are most concerned about," says a spokesman, "is that the tenancy

agreement comes under section 11, 12 or 20 of the Rent Act — something you should demand anyway — which ensures that people renting your property cannot become sitting tenants." If you default on your mortgage the building society wants to be sure it can get your tenants out and repossess the property.

"I have heard horror stories of people returning home to find coffee stains on the sofas and scratches on all the tables, so I am not expecting my house to be in the same condition as when I left it," said Miss Welker. "However, I do want to insure things as well as I can."

Before you go away it is wise to inform your insurance company. If you do not it could well refuse to pay on a claim.

"If someone has a burglary and then we discover that their keys have been with agents and through the hands of several tenants without us knowing anything about it," says Commercial Union, "the company could well refuse to meet the claim, since the house has not been as well protected as the insurance policy requires."

The most likely changes an insurer will make to your policy are to do with accidental cover. Commercial Union

says: "Our full-blown Golden Key policy covers people if they break something or damage something in the home. If their property is rented we wouldn't include this because we feel renters are likely to be more careless."

You may also find that your insurers will cover you only for loss after a burglary if there is evidence of "forced or violent entry". This guarantees that your tenants have not stolen something themselves.

So, does the fact that you may well be removing a lot of the more valuable items from your home mean the premiums on your policy will be reduced? Unfortunately not, as the insurance companies consider tenants to be a more expensive risk.

Indeed, it may be more appropriate if you are going abroad for more than a year to take out a policy specifically intended for the purpose. This may include a public liability clause, in case anything happens to your tenants while they are on your property and to cover against loss of rental income in the event, say, of a fire that would render your property uninhabitable.

Hilary Doling

Ernie the Third, your 75-minute prize guy

As the machinery of the postal system slowly gets back into gear, there was an almost audible sigh of relief this week from the 951-strong team of Blackpool-based National Savings officials who act as "minders" to Britain's most famous piece of electronic gadgetry, Ernie.

Ernie — Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment — churns out no fewer than 185,000 Premium Bond winning numbers every month, and all but a handful of those winners are sent their prize cheque by post, along with a congratulatory letter and a friendly hint that National Savings might well be the ideal home for this unexpected windfall.

But the strike could have done more than leave a very large bundle of unposted cheques gathering dust in Blackpool. For in a fortnight's time a brand new Ernie will be unveiled in a blaze of publicity that would have looked more than a little hollow if the poor fellow had crunched his first numbers and then been unable to tell anyone about it.

The new Ernie, to be switched on by Professor Heinz Wolff, the chap on television who looks and sounds so much like a scientist that it comes as a slight surprise to be reminded that he actually is one, is the third machine in just over 30 years to be given the task of running the nearest thing we have to a national lottery.

Since the first prize draw in June 1957, marked by outraged claims that Premium Bonds were proof of moral degeneracy — more than 30 million cheques have gone to holders, adding up to prizes worth more than £1.7 billion.

Where is yours? Well, there are 91,283 unclaimed prizes, including seven cheques for £5,000. Or it could just be that you have been unlucky!

Ernie the Third and his predecessors are scrupulously fair in selecting winners from the 24 million owners of

Premium Bonds. For the technically minded, Ernie has at his core something called a "noise-emitting diode", within which are electrons moving haphazardly. Every twitch of the electrons generates a number, at the rate of 250,000 an hour in the case of the new Ernie.

The system has not changed since the 1950s, but the size of the task has, making speed more important. The first machine took more than eight days to produce its monthly list of winners. The present holder of the post takes five and a quarter hours. And Ernie Mark 3 will do the job in about 75 minutes.

Every bond has an equal chance of winning a prize. Jaundiced Northerners who point to the apparently frequent appearances of counties



On the button: Heinz Wolff

such as Surrey and Berkshire in the list of big winners can be assured that if this is true then the reason is simply that people in those counties have bought more bonds. Ernie is not programmed to favour Guildford and Maidenhead at the expense of Grimsby and Middlesbrough.

The odds against any particular number striking it lucky are 11,000 to 1, so, given an average dose of good luck, the investor with £1,000 in Premium Bonds can look forward to getting a cheque once a year.

A saver with £5,000 in bonds could reasonably hope for five prizes, while the big

gambler with £10,000 invested — and there are a startling 21,000 of them — could count himself unlucky not to get a cheque of some sort almost every month.

It is possible to put the maximum permitted £10,000 into Premium Bonds and still go a complete year without winning a single prize. But National Savings officials console big buyers with the impressive odds against this happening — 55,000 to 1.

Of course, the chances are that when your bond does come up it will produce a £50 prize rather than a cheque for £250,000. After all, there is only one £250,000 prize every month. There are 181,298 worth £50.

Ernie's letters, which have spent recent days languishing in strike-bound sorting offices, are those that tell savers they have won sums ranging from £50 to £10,000. Winners of the three big weekly prizes of £50,000 and £100,000 and the monthly £250,000 jackpot are given the good news in person.

For in the tradition of the Man from Littlewoods, there is a small group of Civil Servants whose happy job it is to knock on people's doors and change their lives.

The welcome is not always what they expect, however. Calling at an address in Yorkshire, one bearer of glad tidings was met by the elderly head of the household who demanded to know what he wanted. The man from Blackpool insisted he had to talk to the man's daughter, the bond holder. "Nowt's private in this house," responded Dad, and refused to let him in.

Others, though, have an immediate idea of how sudden wealth will change their life. One big winner telephoned Blackpool to ask how soon his cheque would arrive. "I'm not married," he blurted out to the young lady who answered his call. "What about you...?"

Tony Hetherington

Strike keeps you cool longer

The heat may be off the postal dispute but the Securities and Investments Board has had to change the cooling-off rules to cope with the disruption.

Companies are obliged to send out cooling-off notices within seven days — or 14 days for regular savings plans — and clients have to return these notices within 14 if they want to back out of an agreement to buy unit trusts, a pension or some other financial product.

So the SIB is turning the

clock back for investors who have been unable to post their cooling-off notices and giving them a fresh 14 days cooling-off period from the end of the postal dispute. The SIB will soon be giving the date from which this new super-cool period will run.

Companies will also get a period of grace — a further seven days in which to post cooling-off notices for lump sum contracts and a further 14 days for regular savings plans as long as the original cooling-

off periods had not expired before Monday, September 12.

Cooling-off notices that have become caught up in the mail stranded in sorting offices by the strike are not effected — companies are required only to post the cooling-off notices within the required time, and the notice period for customers begins only once they receive the notice.

The temporary SIB rules define the start of the dispute as Monday, September 5.

YOU CAN EITHER PARTICIPATE IN 1992

Mark 3 - the new Ernie

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500

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OR YOU CAN WATCH



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FAMILY MONEY

LETTERS

Your holiday money

At least Amex does it fairly

Visitors to England will learn to their advantage that they can convert foreign currency travellers' cheques to sterling without paying the exorbitant commission charged by banks.

In one week in August, when I was visiting London, I was charged by four different banks amounts varying from £2 to £3.50 per cheque for converting American Express travellers' cheques in US dollars to sterling. I learned from American Express that at its offices at 6 Haymarket it will cash American Express cheques without charge.

Travellers' cheques of companies other than American Express can be cashed there for £1.50 per cheque.

When I visited the American Express office I noted the courtesy with which customers were treated. This courtesy had not been evident in any of the London banks I visited, including the one in which I have an account.

On the brighter side of my

visit I was impressed with the politeness of most city officials. One forgets inconveniences caused by the English banking system in recalling the gentle courtesies of most Londoners.

ANDREA M. MILLS,
Minorca.

I was charged three times

I have just returned from a holiday in Cyprus. Before I went I changed some money into Cypriot pounds (commission £1.50) and travellers' cheques (commission £2).

While out in Cyprus, having spent my cash, I changed the travellers' cheques (commission £2 equivalent).

On my return to England I changed my remaining foreign currency back into English pounds (commission £1.50).

This amounts to three lots of commission on the same money. Quite ridiculous!

I believe the banks may well be abusing their position, and would appreciate an explanation through these columns by

some qualified, and no doubt, wealthy employee.

TIMOTHY L. HAY,
Lindacre Road,
Battersea, London SW11.

This ancient bank system

In preparation for my imminent departure to Thailand, I thought it wise to convert my personal funds into travellers' cheques.

My own National Westminster Bank, with which I have entrusted thousands of my own pounds, offered me this conversion at a fee of 2 per cent of the total monies changed. American Express, who have no dealings with me whatsoever, kindly offered to perform the same task at a fee of only 1 per cent.

The inefficient lack of branch-to-branch computer linking, no interest on cheque accounts and soaring interest rates on loans — this just about says it all for British banking.

May their archaic monopolies be challenged soon.

HONE THOMSON,
45 Harvist Road,
Queens Park, London NW6.

Shares vanish in the Registrars' Triangle

Although shrouded in mystery and rumours, it seems that here in Britain there is an area similar to the Bermuda Triangle, a strange and little understood zone where things can suddenly disappear, never to be heard of again.

Come with us now as we travel, with trepidation, into the Registrars' Triangle.

Patrick Cherry is a man who has sailed into these dangerous waters and lived to tell the tale.

Like so many other investors, he received 100 shares in the British Airways Authority flotation. He decided he should add to his holding and bought another 900 shares in August last year.

Although he received his dividend on the full 1,000 shares in January, it arrived in four separate envelopes. So Mr Cherry, abhorring such inefficiency, asked BAA's registrars to consolidate his holding.

Come April, Mr Cherry received the notices asking him to pay the call on the shares. But he was asked for the money on only 900 shares — 100 had vanished.

Ringing the registrars from his local branch of Barclays Bank, he was told that the computer had simply withdrawn them on March 16, but no explanation for this was forthcoming as they "could not get into the computer".

Mr Cherry decided he should pay the call on 1,000 in the hope that the missing



"All we like sheep have gone astray" (Handel's Messiah)

shares would just as mysteriously re-appear and was gratified to receive a letter from the registrars, Hill Samuel, on April 29, informing him: "I am now giving your inquiry my foremost attention, to which I will advise the outcome in the near future."

Different people's ideas of "the near future" presumably vary a lot. Four months of telephone calls — he thinks between 30 and 40 in all — and correspondence failed to produce the requisite proof that Mr Cherry did indeed own the original 100 shares.

In August he received dividends on two separate holdings of 400 shares and 500 shares. One holding spelt his name wrongly, the other printed his address incorrectly. Of the other 100 shares there was no sign.

At this point, Mr Cherry's patience began to wear a little thin.

So he wrote to Sir John Read, chairman of TSB, Hill Samuel's parent company. In

PERSONAL PENSIONS

No penalties and no commission means more for you

It is a fact that in order to pay commission to brokers and other middlemen, some insurance companies impose severe penalties on their personal pension plans, should they subsequently change.

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The Equitable Life does not pay commission for the introduction of business and does not have any such penalties. Also because the amount of money available to be invested on your behalf has not been slashed by such payments, the result is more for you. In fact The Equitable's track record in benefits paid for regular contribution with profits plans for the self employed is the envy of every other company.

For example, 14 years ago the authoritative magazine *Planned Savings* commenced surveys of such plans. Over 10, 15 and 20 year terms The Equitable has achieved more first places than all other companies put together. What better way is there of judging a company than by a record of such consistent excellence.

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Before you look to your future, look to our past.

How low final pay affects pensions

I understand that a pension at retirement is limited to a maximum of two-thirds of final salary (Inland Revenue ruling). Does this ruling apply to a personal pension plan, or combination of PPP, company pension and Serps contributions?

If this is the case, then could the following scenario occur? A high salary is earned for most of one's working life but in the later years approaching retirement, this is considerably reduced. Having accrued a "large pool of pension money" (from one's own

contributions during the high-earnings years), when the two-thirds rule is applied, the result is that you are limited to a small pension.

Hence, depending on definition of final salary, through financial prudence you could be forced to take retirement benefit early, say mid-fifties, rather than let your fund accrue higher benefits until the age of 65.

Clearly, if left to the age of 65, this would offer better annuity rates and be based on the higher fund value.

J.M. SHEATH,
AGincourt Close,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

indicated, contain sections which are not very satisfactory to the client.

An example is: "You may ask us to sell or purchase any particular investment. In that event we shall use all reasonable endeavours to do so but shall be under no liability for any loss or expense you incur by reason of our delay."

The agreement we were sent is 18 pages long and I understand that some run to 38 pages. It really is ridiculous if one is only having occasional dealings.

J.R. KAIN,
Spriggs Holly Lane,
Chinnor,
Oxfordshire.

Benefits for seven years only

I was much interested in the paragraph on covenants in *Family Money* (August 27) by Walter Sinclair, in which he stressed the importance of keeping existing ones in force.

I have covenants running in favour of my infant grandchildren all executed before this year's Budget. They are in the usual form — in the joint lives of grantor and beneficiary on the earlier expiry of the period of seven years from the first payment. Does Walter Sinclair's article mean that if I continue the annual payments after the seven years, the beneficiaries can continue to claim tax relief?

A.C. ENGLAND,
Charlbury,
Oxford.

Walter Sinclair writes: If the period specified in a deed of covenant is extended, this will not be effective in preserving tax benefits for future years. The benefits are available only until the end of the seven-year period specified, or until the earlier death of the covenantor or beneficiary.

Post tip

As a service to its members the Students' Union decided to provide postage stamps for sale in the union shop. These are bought at face value from a local sub-post office, which must benefit greatly by issuing in bulk. Despite requests for a commission or reduced unit price, no help whatsoever is given. We even have to queue to buy our stamps worth over £20,000 per annum!

It could greatly reduce queues if the Post Office would offer a financial inducement to any outlet prepared to sell stamps.

G.R. CLEGG,
Southampton University Students' Union.

Simple English, please

Your article on client agreement letters (August 20) was very interesting. I have been trying to get some answers to problems arising from my broker's agreement form.

It seems to me that when the Government is trying to encourage small shareholders, both the brokers and the Stock Exchange could be a little less defensive and produce simpler documentation. We have considerable stock holdings and have dealt with one broker for years and I think I know a fair amount about the Stock Exchange operation. However, the agreements being sent out are largely incomprehensible to the lay person, and also, as you

● Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Published replies marked with a triangle symbol are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. However, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should be sought. In cases of difficulty in the postal strike aftermath, letters can be faxed on 01-782 5139 or 01-782 5112.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 23).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+7	+3	+6	+5	+4		
2	+8	+1	+5	+5	+4		
3	+5	+3	+2	+5	+6		
4	+4	+4	+3	+3	+4		
5	+7	+2	+7	+5	+3		
6	+4	+3	+3	+4	+3		
7	+9	+2	+5	+5	+5		
8	+6	+4	+4	+4	+5		
9	+8	+1	+4	+6	+6		
10	+8	+1	+7	+4	+4		
11	+5	+2	+4	+4	+5		
12	+6	+2	+6	+5	+3		
13	+3	+5	+5	+4	+4		
14	+5	+4	+3	+4	+4		
15	+8	+1	+6	+6	+5		
16	+3	+4	+4	+5	+3		
17	+7	+2	+7	+5	+5		
18	+7	+3	+3	+3	+4		
19	+7	+4	+2	+3	+5		
20	+8	+1	+5	+7	+5		
21	+5	+2	+6	+6	+4		
22	+4	+4	+4	+3	+2		
23	+5	+2	+4	+6	+4		
24	+5	+2	+7	+5	+5		
25	+4	+4	+4	+5	+4		
26	+7	+3	+3	+3	+6		
27	+6	+2	+8	+5	+4		
28	+7	+1	+5	+7	+6		
29	+5	+3	+3	+5	+4		
30	+4	+3	+5	+3	+3		
31	+6	+1	+4	+5	+5		
32	+5	+2	+2	+5	+5		
33	+5	+3	+3	+5	+2		
34	+5	+3	+6	+4	+3		
35	+9	+2	+6	+5	+5		
36	+6	+2	+3	+4	+6		
37	+5	+5	+4	+3	+3		
38	+5	+1	+6	+7	+6		
39	+8	+1	+8	+6	+3		
40	+5	+4	+4	+3	+3		
41	+8	+3	+7	+5	+3		
42	+5	+1	+5	+5	+2		
43	+4	+3	+5	+4	+2		
44	+5	+3	+3	+4	+4		

INTEREST RATE CHANGE

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

Notice is hereby given that with effect from 1st October 1988, the annual interest rate, for existing borrowers will be increased by 1.25% p.a. as soon as possible, giving further details of individual notices will be sent to borrowers with the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, on the 1st October 1988.

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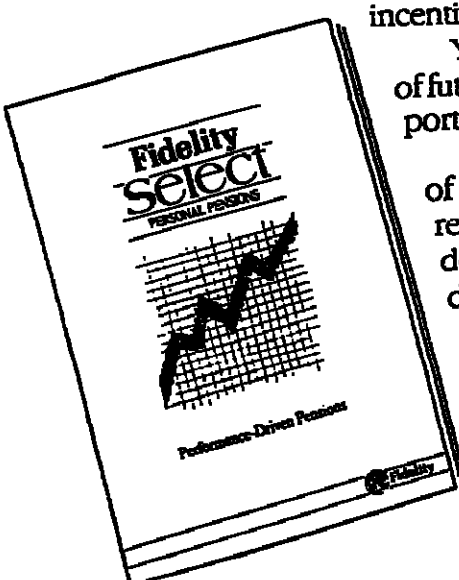
And now — for the first time — you can benefit from the 'extra performance edge' of a pension based on the strength of Fidelity unit trusts through the new Fidelity Select Personal Pensions.

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That vital performance is provided by access to an array of Fidelity's top-flight unit trusts — performance enhanced even further by the benefit of full tax relief on all contributions, tax-free growth and valuable Government incentives.

You should bear in mind that past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of units in the unit trusts and individual portfolios may fluctuate and is not guaranteed.

When it comes to personal pensions, turn to the *proven strength* of Fidelity's performance power now. For further information we recommend you contact your professional adviser who has full details. Alternatively, complete the coupon or avoid any postal disruption by calling Fidelity direct on Callfree 0800-414161.



To: Fidelity Investment Services Limited, Select Personal Pensions Dept,
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Please note that a Fidelity unit trust adviser may contact you with further information as a result of your enquiry.

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FAMILY MONEY

The art of getting into profit

The Business Expansion Scheme market may be dominated by residential property companies but there are still ways of following your fancy and getting tax relief. This week keen art collectors or arboriculturists are the target of money-raising ventures.

Connaught Brown, which aims to raise £750,000, is an art gallery established three years ago in central London. To get off the ground it raised £535,000 under the BES and now wants more money to fund expansion internationally and to build on what the managing director Anthony Brown calls its "crusading" reputation in the art world.

The company has traded profitably since it started, although in the early days this was, of course, through interest earned on money invested by BES shareholders.

However, its profits have fallen short of the "illustrative profit projections" that were contained in its initial fundraising prospectus, launched near the end of 1984.

This, perhaps, should be construed as an indication of the comparative worthlessness of financial projections for start-up companies rather than as a comment on Connaught Brown's trading prospects. These projections are

usually little more than guesswork mapped on to computerized spreadsheets.

Its profits are going in the right direction and investors in this BES issue will have a good measure of asset backing for their money in the form of the stocks of artists' work held by the company.

The directors themselves are subscribing for £156,000 worth of shares.

Mr Brown's salary has risen from £20,000 to £46,000 since the company started but, as he points out, his initial salary was rather low and reflected the uncertainties of a new venture. The gallery's success

Trees that will be lifted and replanted

rests almost entirely on his shoulders.

He has share options over 27 per cent of the company exercisable at the price investors paid for their shares. The difference is that Mr Brown does not qualify for BES tax relief on his shares. There is a minimum investment of £500 in the company.

Further details are can be obtained from the sponsors, Henderson Crosthwaite Corporate Finance, 32 St Mary at Hill, London EC3P 3AJ (01-623 9333).

Celtic Trees, a tree-farming company specializing in Christmas and rootballed trees, is looking for £500,000 from BES investors. According to the prospectus a rootballed tree is one "grown with the intention that it will be lifted and replanted any time during its life".

The company wants to raise money to expand its tree nursery operations and create retail outlets "by way of tree, shrub and garden centres".

The shares are being offered to the public at 30p each. However, last year, after the company actually started trading, almost 100,000 shares were issued to the directors at 10p each. In April this year 466,000 shares were issued via a private placing at 25p each.

The company made a loss of almost £16,000 for the period from the start of trading to March 31, 1988. It has also acquired trees with a book value of £107,000, which it estimates "will produce a turnover in excess of £725,000 between now and 1994".

The directors also have options to subscribe for shares at 25p — less than they are being offered for at the moment. These options are triggered only if the company achieves a flotation or sale realizing at least 50p a share for shareholders.

At the moment the directors are not taking any remuneration for their services — apart from a £6,000 consultancy fee to one director. However, the company's articles of association do allow for the directors to be remunerated.

Moreover, Celtic Trees is leasing land from various directors at market rates, and assets connected with some of the directors have been sold to the company for £120,000.

North West Times is an interesting company also seeking £500,000 under the BES. It is launching a regional morning newspaper for the North-

Democratic attitude to the shareholders

West. The first issue of the paper is due out on Tuesday.

It has already raised substantial finance, including BES money from two BES funds, and wants the extra money "to partially replace existing debt facilities of £785,000". The issue expenses are 17 per cent of the £500,000 being raised.

BES shareholders are being asked to subscribe for shares at 40p compared with the 25p a share that the BES funds paid and the 10p a share paid by the directors.

However, a considerable amount of work devising and getting the project off the ground has clearly been done by the directors. Shareholders investing now are getting a stake in a venture that is definitely going ahead.

Prospectuses can be obtained from the sponsors, Guidehouse, by telephoning 01-606 6321, Ext 242.

Finally, it is good to see an existing BES company trading successfully and also espousing a very democratic attitude towards its shareholders. The annual report for Smithfield Developments, a BES property developer, shows that it made profits of more than £430,000 before tax in its latest financial year. It also has net assets of nearly £3 million, compared with its issued share capital of £2 million.

In 20 months' time the BES investors in the company will be free to dispose of their shares without forfeiting their tax relief.

The company has therefore sent a questionnaire to all shareholders to discover what they would like the company to do once the restraints on disposing of their shares are released.

Lawrence Lever



The man and his gallery: Anthony Brown wants the funds for international expansion

Nationwide Anglia First Rented Housing Business Expansion Scheme Fund

This year the Government introduced a series of new measures to dramatically increase the supply of rented private accommodation, including legislation to enable investment to be made in rented property under the BES.

For a Memorandum inviting participation in Nationwide Anglia First Rented Housing BES Fund, telephone 0272-217 888 (24 hours a day), or post the completed coupon at any branch of Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

In view of the postal delays, the Memorandum can also be obtained from any branch of Nationwide Anglia Building Society during opening hours.

The Fund is approved by the Inland Revenue under the Finance Act 1988.

The invitation is open until 5pm on the 5th October unless it is fully subscribed sooner.

Applications to subscribe to the Fund will be accepted only on the terms and conditions set out in the Memorandum.

Remember investments in unquoted companies carry higher risks as well as the chance of higher rewards.

HOW TO APPLY

You can obtain the Nationwide Anglia First Rented Housing BES Fund Memorandum in any of the following ways:

- From any branch of Nationwide Anglia Building Society, during opening hours; or
- Complete the coupon and post it at any branch of Nationwide Anglia Building Society, out of hours; or
- Telephone 0272-217 888 (24 hours a day).

Completed application forms with cheques must be received no later than 5.00 pm on the 5th October, at either a Nationwide Anglia Building Society branch or by using the FREEPOST envelope which will be provided.

Phone 0272-217 888
(24 HOURS A DAY)

Please post at any branch of Nationwide Anglia Building Society out of hours.

Please send me the Nationwide Anglia First Rented Housing BES Fund Memorandum and application form.

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Your benefit, even if you are only 16

Although many thousands of young people are excluded from the benefit system, one group, the severely disabled incapable of work, is entitled to claim benefits from the age of 16.

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) is non-means-tested and non-taxable and does not rely on National Insurance contributions. It is £24.75 a week, plus £14.80 for any adult dependant such as a spouse or someone looking after the claimant's child or children.

An extra £8.40 a week can also be paid for every dependent child — this does not affect Child Benefit payments, which at the moment are worth £7.25 a week.

To qualify for SDA, claimants must satisfy a dual test.

First, they must be incapable of work for which an employer would pay, and have been so for at least 196 days. The incapacity must be "by reason of some specific disease or bodily or mental disablement".

Second, the claimant must:

- be under 20, or
- have been assessed as at least 75 per cent disabled, or
- be receiving "passport" benefits such as Mobility Allowance or Attendance Allowance, or
- already have been receiving Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension (NCIP) on November 28, 1984 — SDA actually replaced NCIP and most recipients will have been automatically transferred to SDA.

The importance of young people claiming SDA as soon as possible is that, provided they are under the age of 20, they will not have to go through the assessment process. Nor is it necessary for them to be receiving any of the passporting benefits — though, by the very nature of SDA, it is probable that the majority will in fact be claiming Mobility and/or Attendance Allowance.

Although young people cannot actually receive SDA until they reach 16, days of incapacity for work before the 16th birthday can be included in the 196-day qualifying period. It is therefore possible to apply for SDA in advance, thereby ensuring the payments start at the age of 16.

Those aged 16, 17 and 18, who wish to stay on at school or go into further education, may still obtain SDA provided the course followed does not exceed 21 hours "tutor contact" time per week. So, for example, unsupervised homework, private study and lunch hours, are not counted.

Similarly, if the tutor contact time does exceed 21 hours, this will still be acceptable if the excess hours have been arranged specifically because of the claimant's disability, such as braille lessons for a blind student.

Claims for SDA should be made on form NI252 available from social security offices.

Charles Jackson

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POSTAL DELAYS
Attention

Arley Holdings PLC

SHAREHOLDERS
Rights Issue

The latest time for acceptance and payment in full for the Rights Issue of new Ordinary shares in Arley Holdings PLC is 3.00 pm on Monday, 26th September, 1988. Completed provisional allotment letters together with remittances, are due to be received by Fenchurch Registrars Limited, 8-16 Earl Street, London, EC2A 2DY by that time.

Due to current postal delays, certain shareholders may not have received their provisional allotment letters. All shareholders who wish to take up their rights are requested to contact Gerald Slack, Fenchurch Registrars Limited on 01-247 5644 (Fax no. 01-247 3658) for details of their entitlements under the Rights Issue and/or how they should proceed in order to take up such entitlements.

17th September, 1988

Hard tax

PHOTOSALES

Central Capital Mortgage Corporation Limited

FAMILY MONEY

Hard tax line on BES cash

The Inland Revenue has rejected a plea for an extension to the October 5 deadline for "carry-back" relief on investment in Business Expansion Scheme companies.

Matrix Securities, a BES sponsor, called for an extension this week because of the postal dispute. But a Revenue spokesman said there was no intention of allowing an extension.

Some sponsors have set October 5 as their closing date, however, including the Nationwide Anglia Building Society, which said it would be impossible at this stage to redraft its documents even if an extension was allowed. To beat the postal problems, Nationwide is putting memoranda and application forms for its scheme in all its 900 branches. The society points out that branch staff are not permitted under the Financial Services Act to give advice on this scheme.

Special arrangements have also been made by the organizers of the Link Assured Homes Scheme. Eight centres have been set up around the country to issue prospectuses and accept applications.

BES investments of up to £5,000, made before October 5, qualify for tax relief at last year's rate. As the top tax rate

last year was 60 per cent, this is potentially an attractive proposition for high earners.

Although the deadline for carry-back relief always creates a flurry of BES activity, the new residential property schemes are also keeping the BES bandwagon rolling this year. Up to £5 million can be raised under the BES scheme

schemes launched up to September 12. It singles out three residential schemes — the First Johnson Fry Residential Property BES, Grampian Assured and Link Assured Homes.

Johnson Fry's scheme is effectively a fund investing in 10 companies, which themselves will buy homes for rent

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which owns a newly built house costing between £70,000 and £80,000. Every company is a close one, and this status enables investors to get tax relief on any borrowings they raise to finance their investment in the scheme. As small companies they also pay

Maria Scott

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Key details:

* Minimum investment £1,000

* Closing date for applications is October 1st

Because of postal problems, the Company has arranged for a copy of the prospectus to be made available to you personally at your local branch of a clearing bank. The bank has also agreed to receive sealed envelopes containing applications at any branch in the UK.

For your copy of the prospectus, telephone Oxford Business Planning on 0865 69384/60994 or 08446 450 (24 hour service)

This advertisement has been issued by Oxford Business Planning 14 Brookside, Headington, Oxford OX3 7PJ (Interim Authorised, Applied to The Securities Association, Securities and Investments Board, No. 141452.)

This is not an invitation to purchase or subscribe for shares. Applications for shares in the company can be made only on the application form accompanying the Company's prospectus.

BRIEFING

Full cover for airport delays

Holidaymakers left fuming at airports this summer did not even have the comfort of a payout from their holiday insurance as the delays were caused by air traffic congestion, not strikes, storms or limping aeroplanes.

A new travel policy has been brought out by Pickfords Travel that covers all claims for delays no matter how they were caused. Would-be passengers will be paid £20 for hold-ups of 12 hours or more and £10 for every 12 hours after that up to a maximum of £50. If the waiting becomes intolerable, the policy allows you to cancel completely and recoup all costs up to £3,000 per person. Pickfords reports that for those who get away to their destination, the most common cause of a claim on the medical cover is for stomach upsets. The average bill is £30, and this was almost cancelled out by the £25 excess. However, this has now been abolished and claims will be paid in full.

Fidelity pension

Fidelity Investment Services is launching a personal pension that will invest straight into unit trusts. In common with other companies to have launched unit-trust based pensions, Fidelity is making much of the charging structure. It argues that the charges will be much lower than in a pension using the traditional investment avenues of unit-linked or with-profit funds.

The minimum investment is £200 a month, or £2,000 a year, including tax relief.

The investor pays a setting-up fee of 1.25 per cent of the first premium and the only other charges are those levied by the individual trusts, normally 5.25 per cent initially and 0.5 per cent to 1.25 per cent annually.

Investors can choose from 13 Fidelity unit trusts, and there is a money market fund created specially to form a safe haven for the funds of those within five years of retirement.

Investors are free to choose which trusts they go into.

Rule change

The Association of Independent Investment Managers, a trade organization that has been performing a regulatory role among unit trust companies since well before the introduction of the Financial Services Act, changed its rules this week so that it will no longer insist on clients' money being kept in accounts run by independent custodians such as banks or building societies. The Securities and Investments Board rules require separation of client funds but do not demand that the accounts are completely out of the managers' reach.

Although the association will no longer insist on the rule it will continue to recommend it to members. With this rule change the association no longer has a regulatory role to play among its members but will continue to act as a pressure group. Coutts & Co, meanwhile, is launching an account designed for investment managers wanting facilities for separation of clients' money, as required by the Act.

NINE

If you're looking for a good home for £5,000 or more, why not put it into a Midland Premier Savings account?

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Notice is hereby given that the rate of interest charged on all existing mortgage accounts will be raised to 12.95% as and from 1st October 1988.

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CSM House, Victoria Street,
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FAMILY MONEY

Winning bets next century

Inflation is on the investment agenda again. Since the middle of 1986 when we all congratulated ourselves on prices rising at less than 3 per cent a year, it has been steadily increasing.

The Government sees the upward movement as a temporary blip in its otherwise successful fight to control inflation. But others are not so sure. If you are not persuaded by the Government or if you are merely cautious, now is the time to consider index-linked gilts. They can protect your money against any erosion of value until well into the next century.

On top of that, index-linked gilts guarantee that you will gain a real return from the Government in excess of inflation. Index-linked gilts make up about a tenth by value of the entire gilt market and were originally introduced in mid-1981 as inflation was easing off after the huge price rises of the 1970s.

At first they were restricted to pension funds. Now they are available to everyone and they are increasingly seen as an important part of any gilt strategy for the private investor. The Edinburgh private client broker Robert White & Co, for instance, suggests that those looking for long-term growth should put half their gilt investment into the index-linked stocks.

Like "conventional" gilts, the value of an index-linked stock is split between two factors. It will be repaid on a defined date in the future and there will be a regular stream of dividend income with a payment every six months. But there the similarity ends.

If you buy a conventional gilt, it will be redeemed at £100, whatever price you paid. And if the stated interest rate or "coupon" is 10 per cent, you will get two £5 dividends a year for every £100 of nominal value. With an index-linked gilt, the final redemption value is not £100 but £100 multiplied by the rise in the Retail Price Index. If prices have doubled, the stock will be redeemed at £200.

But that is not all. The dividend also rises with inflation.



If the stock is labelled 2 per cent, you do not get £1 for every £100 of stock twice a year but that sum plus compensation for inflation. The only slight mathematical complication is that you start with the RPI figure eight months before the stock was launched — all inflation calculations in the world of index-linked gilts run eight months in arrears.

If inflation runs at 30 per cent for the next 20 years, the original £100 will be repaid at £19,004.96, while the annual dividend — assuming a 2 per cent coupon — would be

£380.09, which is still 2 per cent of the inflation-adjusted value. The conventional gilt would hardly be worth the paper it is printed on.

And that is not so far-fetched. People who bought gilts just after the Second World War have seen inflation and higher interest rates erode more than five-sixths of their capital even if they reinvested all the income. But what index-linked gilts offer is in the future. Your present income would be less.

Alternatively, you could opt for jam today by buying conventional gilts on a 10 per cent yield — some three times the return on index-linked. Your tactics must depend on your view of inflation and your present need for income.

The stock market now forecasts inflation rising on a year-on-year basis to as much as 6.3 per cent by the middle of next year. High wage settlements, the boom in consumer spending and the rise in mortgage rates on the back of the interest rate measures to stop us shopping so much on tick are all playing their part.

After that, according to ANZ Merchant Bank, it should fall back to 4.9 per cent in the latter part of next year.

One way of comparing the two sorts of gilts is to look at their yields and then subtract your inflation forecast from the return on the conventional gilt. The index-linked yield nearly 4 per cent, conventional stocks offer nearly 10 per cent or just 4 per cent after taking away the inflation estimate.

"And that," says David Newton, at Shearson Lehman Hutton Gilts, "is the first time that prospective inflation plus the return on index-linked has

approached the return on a conventional stock. Index-linked stocks are holding up well despite the Government's action in increasing the supply of these stocks to the market and decreasing the amount of conventional stock by buying it back in."

At ANZ Bank, Richard Pain adds a further factor: "You should take one percentage point in your mind from the yield on conventional stocks to compensate for their uncertainty. Index-linked offer a comfort factor."

Most private investors go for index-linked stocks due to

'We calculate the break-even rate'

mature in the next few years as an alternative to the low coupon stocks favoured by higher-rate taxpayers.

"They like the security of redemption in a near time scale," says Mr Pain, "but as most are higher-rate taxpayers, they would do better to opt for stocks with redemption dates well into the next century. There is a lot of mathematics involved but we calculate a break-even rate — the percentage inflation needs

to be to make it worth the while of a top-rate taxpayer choosing index-linked rather than conventional.

"On the near dated stocks the break-even figure is around 6 per cent. But as the redemption dates get further away, that break-even rate falls and by the time we get to Treasury 2.5 per cent Index-Linked 2011, it is down to under 3 per cent.

"So the essential decision is whether an investor thinks inflation will be less than 3 per cent on average over the next 20 years."

Recent figures from Barclays Bank show that since the Second World War, no five-year period has seen inflation under 2.6 per cent, while during 1975-80 prices more than doubled — equal to annual inflation of more than 15 per cent.

Now, in the near term at least, there must be doubts over the ability of equities and house values moving ahead faster than the inflation, plus nearly 4 per cent offered by index-linked gilts.

● A limited range of index-linked gilts can be purchased at the Post Office.

Tony Levene

The islands where you will invest without fear

Moving your money offshore does not have to take you outside the safety net of an investors' compensation scheme. Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are all working on their own schemes in the race to obtain territory status under the Financial Services Act.

Offshore funds must provide investors with the same protection as UK unit trusts to be legally marketed in Britain, and a compensation scheme is therefore a vital element in the new stricter laws that the offshore islands are bringing into force to regulate the fund groups based there.

If the schemes go through as proposed, investors in a failed fund based in the Isle of Man or Jersey will receive a maximum of £48,000 in compensation, made up of 100 per cent of the first £30,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000, in line with the benefits provided under the UK scheme.

The Guernsey scheme is more generous, envisaging a maximum £60,000 pay-out, comprising 90 per cent of the first £50,000 and 30 per cent of the next £10,000. The thought behind this is that the UK scheme was wrong to reimburse small investors in full, because it removes their incentive to be certain that they are dealing with a reputable outfit.

The likelihood of any Channel Islands or Isle of Man fund crashing is small, given that the majority are run by subsidiaries of UK unit trust groups or insurance companies, which would come under strong pressure to bail out the offshore arm in the event of any problems.

In recognition of this, Jersey has decided to fund its scheme by parental support agreements, rather than adopting the UK approach of a levy across the whole industry. Under this, the parent enters a binding contract to support its subsidiary, up to a maximum call of £5 million. It will not be required to chip in to reimburse investors with any other fund group.

Tony Levene



Guernsey: quiet and calm, and soon to be safe for investors

Guernsey has also set a ceiling of £5 million a year, but has not finalized how the money is to be collected. The Isle of Man has not set a ceiling at all, as its fund management industry is considerably smaller than either Jersey's or Guernsey's, and at an earlier stage of development. Instead, the amount available will expand in accordance with total funds under management, and will be collected from all participants in the scheme.

This will not include all the Manx-based funds, any more

Offshore funds have two advantages

than the schemes put forward by the Channel Islands will cover all the funds registered there. The compensation safety net is extended only to the funds that will be authorized under the Act when the islands obtain designated status.

Funds that do not want to market into the UK will not need to be authorized, and under present proposals will not be covered by the compensation schemes.

Neither will any other financial firms, in contrast to

the UK, where you will receive a pay-out in the event of the collapse of any fully authorized financial advice business.

The main reason for choosing an offshore fund in preference to an onshore one is to take advantage of high-yielding gilt funds, which pay interest without deducting tax at source, or to switch your money around among the various investment options in an umbrella fund.

The only way such funds can be marketed in the UK at present is by obtaining a listing on the Stock Exchange — up to December 1. That is the date beyond which unauthorized funds are out in the cold, though not beyond the UK investor's reach. You can put your money into anything you want, as can your adviser within the parameters of the best advice rules.

Take note, however, that after December 1, or when the offshore islands are granted designated status, there will be a significant gap between the legally enforced investor protection offered by authorized and unauthorized offshore funds.

Pauline Skypala



OUTSTANDING

NO.1 AUSTRALIAN FUND OVER 1,3 & 5 YEARS*

Ranking No. 2 in the entire Unit Trust industry for the year to 31 July 1988 was the NM Australian Fund. It delivered 18.2% capital growth over a period when world markets tumbled and the average Australian fund fell by 35.3%.

Over 5 years it has returned its investors 155.3%, substantially beating its sector during a difficult period for the Australian economy.

LOCAL EXPERTISE

The Trust's asset is its team of local advisers. Our ultimate parent company, National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited, is one of Australia's largest and most successful financial institutions. One in 15 Australians entrusts savings to it. In Melbourne an investment team of 200 looks after funds of A\$19.5 billion. This local knowledge, proven in demanding circumstances, can work to your advantage as the Australian economy moves.

ATTRACTIVE PROSPECTS

As a resource driven economy Australia is benefiting from a worldwide rally in commodity prices, particularly nickel, zinc and

ONE YEAR + 18.2%
THREE YEARS + 160.7%
FIVE YEARS + 155.3%

aluminium. Its currency, after a long downhill trend, is strengthening as the Government appears set to maintain tight monetary policy. This, combined with a strong commodity market and increased exports of raw materials should support the SA and help the domestic current account deficit which is expected to show an improvement of around 20% on the previous year to date.

A lower inflation outlook, prospects for improved company profitability and a forecast higher budget surplus in 1988-89 provide a positive background for the relative outperformance by the Australian stock market in an international context.

INVESTMENT POINTERS

The aim of the fund is capital growth. The managers are currently concentrating on stocks that will benefit from the earlier devaluation of the SA, such as metals and mining; on those which will benefit from commodity price strength, such as oil and gold; and on special situations elsewhere in the market.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future prospects of the fund. You should remember that the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

We believe, however, that the combination of proven local management and a resurgent Australian economy will provide a sound long term investment. Nevertheless, you should bear in mind that in world terms the Australian market is small and volatile.

To invest, contact your Independent Financial Adviser or return the coupon with your cheque (min £500).

*Source: Planned Savings 18 88 Offer based on basic, net income reinvested. A member of the UTA, IMRO and LAUTRO.

Australian Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Fund Objective: Seek to achieve capital growth by investing in resource related industries, as well as selected industrial sectors.
2. Trustee: National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Limited.
3. The minimum initial investment is £500 in either income or accumulation units or the offer price of the units, whichever is the higher. The value of your holding at any time will be determined by the rules and price of the units and the number of units allocated and you may choose to cash in your units at any time.
4. Units may be sold back to the Manager at the ruling bid price provided that the value of any remaining balance is not below £500. A charge for the proceeds will be set within law within 14 days of receipt by the Manager of the relevant certificate with the proceeds on the back date completed.
5. Depending on the class of units held you will either receive a dividend payment (net of basic rate tax) every six months or a tax credit voucher advising you of the net

6. income reinvested on your behalf. Reinvested income does not give rise to additional units but increases the value of the units held.
7. Any capital gains arising on disposal of your units could be liable to taxation at the current capital gains tax rate.
8. You will be sent a certificate in respect of your purchase of units within 21 days after receipt of completed registration details.
9. You may obtain a copy of the scheme particulars and most recent fund report by writing to the Managers.
10. The difference between the minimum bid or offer permitted by the trust deed and the maximum offer price so permitted is known as a "spread".
11. As at 1.8.88 the bid offer spread was approx 6.75%, the net of service charge is 5.25%, the annual management charge is 1%, the estimated gross annual yield was 0.52% and the dividend point for the fund is 10.00 pence only.
12. You will not have the right to cancel this contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988.

To: NM Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd, FREEPOST Enterprise House, Isambard Brunel Road, Portsmouth, Tel: 0705-827733. Registered No: 1552633

I attach my cheque for £ (minimum £500) to be invested in the NM Australian Fund. Please allocate me accumulation income units (please delete one)

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DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____ (All joint holders must sign)

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FAMILY MONEY

The Boss and the buy-out

When his company broke up with Asda, MFI's chairman Derek Hunt cried all the way to a merchant bank — and began his management buy-out. John Bell recounts a story of share cheek

George McDowall's wife smiled in disbelief when he said he was going to make a killing on the Stock Exchange. By City whizz-kid standards, his profit was modest. But for the 36-year-old Scot, a former market trader, the chance to earn £40,000 for a £400 stake was not to be missed. "She looked at me," he remembers, "as if to say, 'Fine, he's talking in telephone numbers again.' But it will pay off a large part of my mortgage."

For Jim McManus and Jackie Barber, the prospect of a hundred-fold return on their money was no less inviting. Like George McDowall, they were both offered a chance to buy shares in their employer, the furnishing giant MFI, last year. McManus, now in his mid-thirties, left school without any qualifications. But he thrived inside MFI and is now its property director. His £600 investment could be worth £60,000 in three years.

Jackie Barber, a manager in MFI's personnel department, joined as a typist. She called her £400 investment "the chance of a lifetime". If MFI does exceptionally well, she may be able to collect much more than £40,000.

The three colleagues are among 350 managers and directors who last year scraped together £600,000 towards buying back MFI from its then owner, Asda, the super-markets chain. It took some doing. Along with more than 40 banks from all over the world and 30 investment institutions, the buyout team had to find £700 million to pay off Asda and at the same time to buy control of MFI's most important supplier, Hygena.

The lending banks will be happy to see their cash repaid in full after earning a good rate of interest. But the investment institutions are risking their capital in the hope of a handsome profit when MFI's shares are floated on the Stock Exchange by 1991. They were keen to offer spectacular incentives to the 350 men and women who can make the share sale a roaring success. The directors, who put up £60,000 a head, are each set to collect £6 million.

If MFI meets the stiffest profits targets set by the financiers, the 350 employees and directors will own a stake in their business worth a staggering £50 million or more. "It's great," says George McDowall. "Almost like being self-employed. I do have to report to people above me. But I am basically in charge of my own destiny. In the seven stores for which I am responsible, I have an opportunity to make them as profitable as they can be and to capitalize on the opportunity."

The man who wants to make all his workers rich is Derek Hunt, MFI's 49-year-old chairman, who is known throughout the group as "Boss". Hunt is as tough and rugged as his working-class family background in the North-east would suggest. His father was an engine driver, many of his relatives are miners. Yet Hunt believes passionately in the idea of share-owning employees.

"In the 16 years I've been here, MFI has always been run on the basis that if the business is doing well, everyone does well. If it does badly, everyone feels the pinch. We had a share ownership scheme before we merged with Asda, and people responded wonderfully."

Hunt shares with Amstrad founder Alan Sugar a view that in some businesses it is a positive asset to have a working-class background, both in dealing with customers and fellow employees. A former policeman who started in retailing as a British Home Stores trainee manager, he feels that MFI is unusual. Apart from non-executive directors, the board consists of former working-class kids. "We relate to our staff far better than the average business," he says.

For all Derek Hunt's belief in share ownership, the blockbusting buyout of MFI came about almost by accident, and almost came to grief on several occasions. By 1987, he had made it to the top of MFI, taken the group into a merger with Asda and become chief executive of the combined group. But Friday, July 10 last year was, he says, one

of the most painful he can recall. It was the day that Asda and MFI revealed that their two-year marriage, heralded as a trend-setting model for the rest of the retailing business, was to end in divorce. Like many divorces, the reason was money.

Asda had taken the north by storm with its out-of-town cut-price food formula. But by 1987, Sainsbury, Dees, Tesco and Argill had responded with their own edge-of-town operations. Asda had outgrown its regional base and had to go national or lose out to its fast-encroaching rivals. It meant joining the ferocious competition for suitable sites south of Birmingham — the wealthiest and lushest sales territory in Britain.

Setting up a superstore these days usually means a land deal of £10 million to £25 million. "And that is before you have laid a brick," Hunt says. "We all underestimated the implication of the decision to go national." The Asda budgets soon began to reveal a voracious and growing hunger for cash. Once the decision was taken to sell off Asda's original dairy business, nothing was sacred any more. The next option was to examine other disposals. Inevitably that meant MFI.

Even before the parting of the ways was announced to a disbelieving world, Hunt and his colleagues had thought of a buyout. He had been asked by Asda's board to give up group board duties and devote his time to running MFI until a buyer was found. Hunt travels 70,000 miles a year just keeping in touch, and he knew that there would be worries over the arrival of a new owner. But for other reasons the sale and the buyout idea could hardly have come at a worse time for MFI.

The group was like a beached whale, its trade stagnant. MFI had become the king of the flatpack furniture business, opening a store a month for 10 years and capturing 12 per cent of the UK furniture market with its cheap, no-frills products. It sold one in four British kitchens and two in five bedrooms. But the growth had disappeared. Profits soared to £46 million but were stuck on a plateau for two years. A shake-up was badly needed simply to restore some momentum.

The first feedback from the City was gloomy. MFI was too big for a buyout and there were not enough assets to comfort the bankers should things go wrong. MFI's success had made it one of Britain's 100 largest companies. But Hunt and his colleagues were reluctant to give up the idea. The thought of what another buyer might do to their empire and its staff was not, he recalls, a pleasant one. But all that changed after the official announcement of the Asda-MFI divorce.

Hunt went home for the weekend depressed after making a video for staff to explain the break-up of the Asda/MFI group and found a list of telephone messages waiting for him. "By Monday my phone was red-hot. I must have taken 30 calls from British, American and even Japanese banks. They all wanted to discuss the possibility of a buy-out," he recalls. The next few days were to be decisive.

"I spent three days touring the country talking to staff, and there was an overwhelming head of steam behind a buyout even before I mentioned it. I had offers of money and even second mortgages from cleaners and salesmen. That really made up our minds."

Within a few days, Hunt had told Asda chairman David Donohoe of his plans and set about finding the backing before other would-be buyers emerged. Hunt's existing lines of communication with the City were cut. His normal sources were advising Asda on the sale of MFI. Hunt reached for the phone and called Victor Blank of the merchant bank Charterhouse, who soon brought in his colleague Robert Smith to take over the day to day work. "We liked the look of him and he exuded a confidence that we did not perhaps quite feel ourselves at that stage," Hunt said. Smith's skills as a financier were soon to be put to the test when the Hygena problem emerged.

Hygena's operations were



Around the corner: Derek Hunt, who, like most of MFI's 6,000 employees, is looking forward to a handsome profit by 1991 when the company's shares are floated on the Stock Exchange

the brilliant brainchild of one man, Malcolm Healey. By 1987, Hygena had become crucial to the MFI operations. Over 40 per cent of group sales were provided by Hygena. It had become one of Europe's biggest businesses of its type. Healey was not in control of his own destiny from the moment Asda decided to sell MFI. For both companies relied on each other. Neither could survive without the other. To secure his outlets, Healey was talking of buying MFI.

Hunt moved swiftly to head off a prospect he did not relish. After a weekend of negotiations, he and his colleagues secured outline agreement with Healey to sell Hygena to MFI, provided the finance could be arranged. Hunt sent Smith back again to the City with a message: "Thanks for talking about our £500 million buyout. Now we need another £200 million for Hygena." With Healey's agreement in the bag and a price agreed with Asda, the buyout was moving closer to reality.

Management buyouts, or MBOs, as they are called in the trade, were still a relatively

new US export to Britain. They normally involve a group of lending banks, a similar group of equity investors and a small management team worth backing. The classic course of a buyout goes like this. Fix the finance, do the deal, then squeeze the business for every extra penny of profit. This can involve selling spare assets or operations not central to the future of the company. Having jacked up the profits, arrange a share flotation. This repays the bank debt and bales the investors, including management, out with a frequently substantial profit.

Initially, Hunt and his colleagues were forced to follow the well-trodden route. "We thought that we would have to take cuts in pay and give ourselves smaller cars. The trouble with MFI was that it had always been a lean business. There were no fat cats around waiting for the slaughter."

With hindsight, Hunt and his colleagues feel that their plans carried a high degree of risk. They were essentially the same as strategies designed to get MFI moving again which

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had been presented to the Asda board before the decision to part company. "The plan involved a massive change in merchandise, moving up market and dropping the 50 per cent off labels. We had a sale in most stores for 30 weeks a year. The new approach was to be quieter, the 'Come and look at us now' approach. We were also aiming for higher sales per square foot, stock reductions and additional space. The risk was that our business would slip away. We knew we had to be brave for a month or two. But we did not bank on being brave three weeks before the buyout deal was finally signed."

The launch of the new-style marketing pitch was worse than anyone feared. Sales dived in early September when it came into play. Customers came, looked and went away again. It was a testing time for Hunt, his team and his backers. "We were tempted to scrap the new approach and put up the 50 per cent off tickets again. But by this time Robert Smith of Charterhouse had seen more of us than his wife for the past two months and he was sold on the long-term strategy. Chemical Bank, which fixed most of the borrowings, had also got the flavour of our company and started to believe," says Hunt. Internally, though, MFI's financial men were revising their profit forecasts downward. The three-year profit targets set by the financiers were looking ever more daunting.

The deal was signed in early October with the Boss still anxious and exhorting his staff to pull out all the stops. They

need not have worried. "We had a good December and a brilliant start in January. We now realize that for several years our faithful customers had been prepared to pay more for better quality merchandise. We missed all of that business because we were stuck with the 50 per cent off mentality," Hunt says.

"Within three months we were beating our forecasts to such an extent that we were able to leave the immediate targets aside and take a much longer term view of how we wanted to run the business."

By the end of April this year MFI reported a 55 per cent rise in interim profits to £46.6 million. The 350 staff are on course for their 100 fold profits when MFI decides to float its shares — at the latest by 1991. With the tough buyout targets now being met, and the new marketing strategy paying off, Hunt is looking at fresh fields to conquer.

The success of the new strategy and the cash it is generating has eased the burden of financing future growth. The group can afford to hold on to the freeholds of its new superstore sites, boost-

ing its asset base. MFI has done a deal with WH Smith's Do It All DIY chain to merchandize Hygena kitchens in-store. And it is dipping its toes into the High Street, selling kitchens and bedrooms under the Hygena Interiors label. There are five outlets at present.

The key to both operations is a delivery and fitting service — another new departure for the group. "By the end of this year it will be a £25 million a year business," Hunt says. But while MFI goes from strength to strength, there is still one item of unfinished business arising from the buyout.

The Boss was not at all happy that only 350 of his colleagues could be offered shares, a condition imposed by the financiers in the interests of simplicity. Hunt is about to introduce a share ownership scheme that is open to everyone, even part-timers, from cleaners and warehousemen to senior people. Soon MFI expects perhaps 5,000 of the 6,000 employees to own a stake in the business. "If you want people to be part of a successful team," Hunt says, "that is how it should be."

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Conventional gilts offer jam today

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'We calculate the break-even rate'

mature in the next few years as an alternative to the low coupon stocks favoured by higher-rate taxpayers.

"They like the security of redemption in a near time scale," says Mr Pain, "but as most are higher-rate taxpayers, they would do better to opt for stocks with redemption dates well into the next century. There is a lot of mathematics involved but we calculate a break-even rate — the percentage inflation needs

to be to make it worth the while of a top-rate taxpayer choosing index-linked rather than conventional.

"On the near dated stocks the break-even figure is around 6 per cent. But as the redemption dates get further away, that break-even rate falls and by the time we get to Treasury 2.5 per cent Index-Linked 2011, it is down to under 3 per cent."

"So the essential decision is whether an investor thinks inflation will be less than 3 per cent on average over the next 20 years."

Recent figures from Barclays Bank show that since the Second World War, no five-year period has seen inflation under 2.6 per cent, while during 1975-80 prices more than doubled — equal to annual inflation of more than 15 per cent.

Now, in the near term at least, there must be doubts over the ability of equities and house values moving ahead faster than the inflation, plus nearly 4 per cent offered by index-linked gilts.

● A limited range of index-linked gilts can be purchased at the Post Office.

Tony Levene

The islands where you will invest without fear

Moving your money offshore does not have to take you outside the safety net of an investors' compensation scheme. Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are all working on their own schemes in the race to obtain designated territory status under the Financial Services Act.

Offshore funds must provide investors with the same protection as UK unit trusts to be legally marketed in Britain, and a compensation scheme is therefore a vital element in the new stricter laws that the offshore islands are bringing into force to regulate the fund groups based there.

If the schemes go through as proposed, investors in a failed fund based in the Isle of Man or Jersey will receive a maximum of £48,000 in compensation, made up of 100 per cent of the first £20,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000, in line with the benefits provided under the UK scheme.

The Guernsey scheme is more generous, envisaging a maximum £60,000 pay-out, comprising 90 per cent of the first £30,000 and 30 per cent of the next £30,000. The thought behind this is that the UK scheme was wrong to reimburse small investors in full, because it removes their incentive to be certain that they are dealing with a reputable outfit.

The likelihood of any Channel Islands or Isle of Man fund crashing is small, given that the majority are run by subsidiaries of UK unit trust groups or insurance companies, which would come under strong pressure to bail out the offshore arm in the event of any problems.

In recognition of this, Jersey has decided to fund its scheme by parental support agreements, rather than adopting the UK approach of a levy across the whole industry. Under this, the parent enters a binding contract to support its subsidiary, up to a maximum call of £5 million. It will not be required to chip in to reimburse investors with any other fund group.



Guernsey: quiet and calm, and soon to be safe for investors

Guernsey has also set a ceiling of £5 million a year, but has not finalized how the money is to be collected. The Isle of Man has not set a ceiling at all, as its fund management industry is considerably smaller than either Jersey's or Guernsey's, and at an earlier stage of development. Instead, the amount available will expand in accordance with total funds under management, and will be collected from all participants in the scheme.

This will not include all the Manx-based funds, any more

Offshore funds have two advantages

than the schemes put forward by the Channel Islands will cover all the funds registered there. The compensation safety net is extended only to the funds that will be authorized under the Act when the islands obtain designated status.

Funds that do not want to market into the UK will not need to be authorized, and under present proposals will not be covered by the compensation schemes.

Neither will any other financial firms, in contrast to

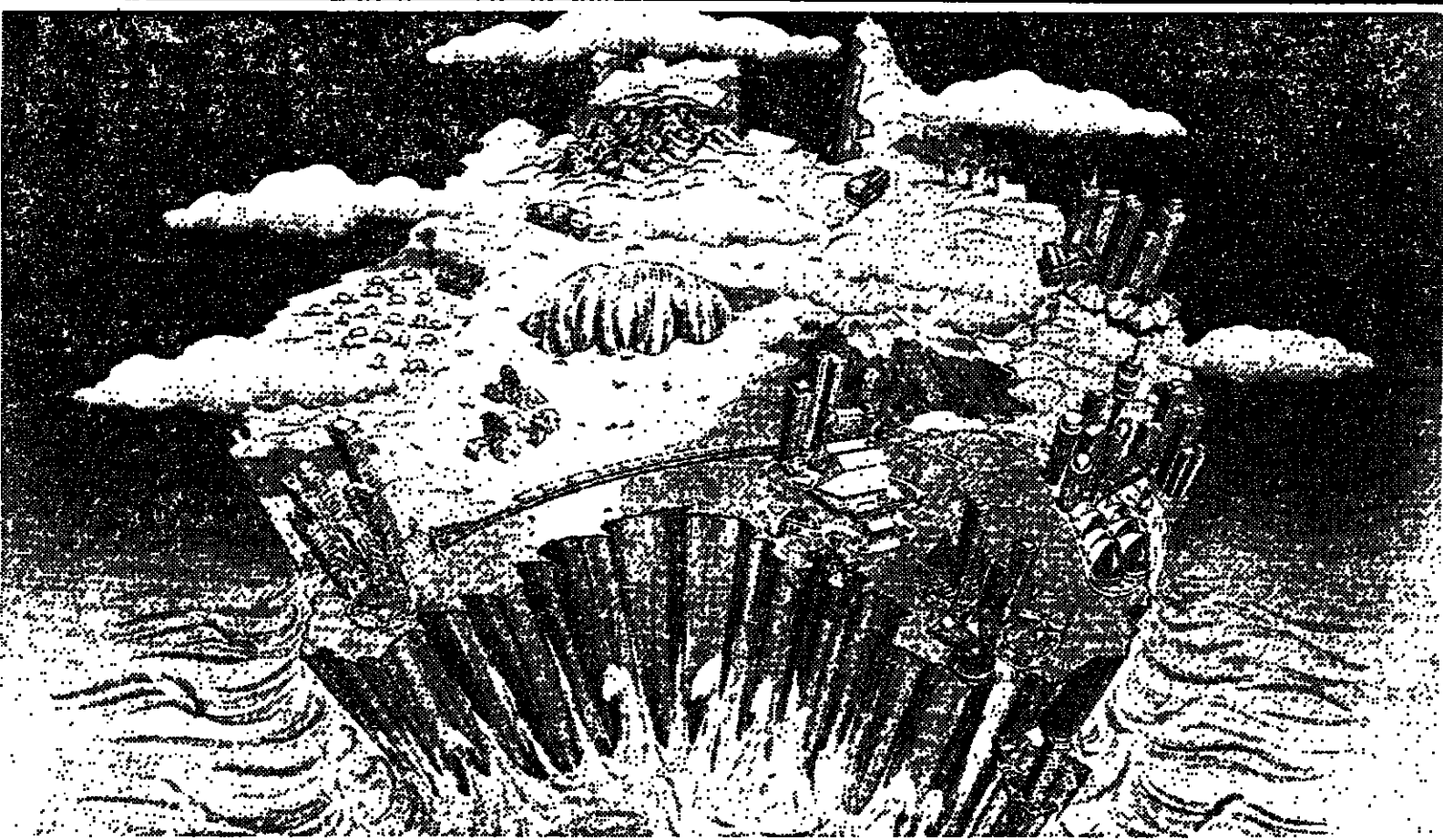
the UK, where you will receive a pay-out in the event of the collapse of any fully authorized financial advice business.

The main reason for choosing an offshore fund in preference to an onshore one is to take advantage of high-yielding gilt funds, which pay interest without deducting tax at source, or to switch your money around among the various investment options in an umbrella fund.

The only way such funds can be marketed in the UK at present is by obtaining a listing on the Stock Exchange — up to December 1. That is the date beyond which unauthorized funds are out in the cold, though not beyond the UK investor's reach. You can put your money into anything you want, as can your adviser within the parameters of the best advice rules.

Take note, however, that after December 1, or when the offshore islands are granted designated status, there will be a significant gap between the legally enforced investor protection offered by authorized and unauthorized offshore funds.

Pauline Skypala



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*Source: Planned Savings 1.6.88 Offer-bid basis, net income reinvested. A member of the UTA, IMRO and LAUTRO

NIM Australian Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Tribal roots of love and war

Sexual bonding and being part of a 'family' group are vital in curbing aggression. In the final extract from their book on the tribes of today, Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh examine the ways we deal with extremes of individual and collective emotion

Love and war are basic to any human culture, whether it is "primitive" or modern. The former is, in fact, linked to the latter.

The human female is partly to blame. Unlike the females of our nearest primate relatives, she is sexually receptive most of the time; her constant availability had the effect of increasing competition among the men on a sustained basis. This competition had to be regulated by rules and taboos. Such regulation helped to bond men and women more closely into social groups or tribes.

But an inevitable consequence of tribal bonding is hostility towards other tribes. A tribe gains its characteristic distinctiveness through contrast with other groups. Having an "enemy" is one of the easiest ways of reinforcing the social ties which bind a community together, whether that community is a tribe of football fans on a British terrace or the Yanomamo tribe of the Venezuelan rain forest, from which one out of four of the male population dies as a result of combat.

As we have developed from our hunter-gatherer roots, co-operation and aggression have grown together, a process which has ensured our survival and created opportunities for group culture and individual social identity.

The universal human solution to the need to regulate sexual relations is, and for millenniums has been, marriage. Marriage can be defined as a socially sanctioned sexual and economic union between two or more people. Usually, it is a contract between a man and one or more women. This being so, marriage can be seen not only as a means of regulating reproductive behaviour, but also as a way of upholding male dominance. In the early hominid societies, it has been suggested, males used mate selection and the establishment of a permanent bond as a way of exploiting the benefits of the foraging and gathering activities of females. Such a bond reduced the amount of labour which males needed to do, and thereby ensured the subservience of the females. Marriages are also a way of

establishing alliances between kinship groups. The use of phrases such as "mother-in-law" and "brother-in-law" implies that marriage serves not just to bond husband and wife together but also to establish a clear set of expectations and obligations among members of the newly related families.

Because marriage performs this vital function, spouse-selection is rarely left to pure chance or romantic whim. The characteristic Asian system is the formally arranged marriage. The concept of love is not central to the process of selecting a marriage partner, although it is expected that such emotional bonds will follow from the marriage union. We tend to think that in Western culture the process is very different: people marry because they love each other, wish to stay together and want to raise a family. The reality is very different.

Like our counterparts in traditional cultures, we celebrate the newly legitimized sexual liaisons

As in most tribal societies, we select marriage partners from a narrow band of people who share with us similar status, social class, values and lifestyle. There are exceptions, but the general pattern is remarkably similar to that which exists in societies where selection arrangements are formalized by the families of the couple to be married. Embedded in the rituals of marriage in Western societies is the notion that such unions are for life and that, once a mate has been selected, no other should be considered. As we know, there are many cases where this ideal is not met. Apart from extramarital relationships, divorce and re-

marriage are common. For this reason, our system is usually referred to as serial monogamy: at any one time a person can have only one spouse, but the identity of the spouse can change from time to time.

In traditional societies, however, monogamy is a relatively rare arrangement. The number of wives an individual male will have will be directly dependant on his ability to maintain and support them. This system favours the older males, who may be able to support up to a dozen wives, at the expense of the younger men, whose social and economic status may effectively preclude marriage until their late thirties, if at all.

Although polygamy in Africa arose in response to the social and economic needs of rural communities, the practice has been transferred virtually intact to the new cities, irrespective of the influence of the men. Roughly one third of Senegalese men have more than a single wife. The system is seen, particularly by the males, as essential to the preservation of African traditions and culture.

Polygamy is the United States is, of course, illegal. That has not prevented the most fiercely tribal of US religious groups, the Mormons, from establishing and continuing the practice. The Mormons' move towards polygamy took care of a couple of social problems inherent in the movement and the times. More women than men joined the new religious movement and, due to the high rate of male infant mortality on the fringes of the North American frontier where the Mormons lived, there were significantly more women needing support.

Although marriage patterns vary from culture to culture, they all serve to regulate and order sexual encounters. It is also the case that the rules are broken, and there are few societies in which premarital and extramarital relationships are not found. In our own cultures we tolerate divorce, remarriage and extramarital affairs by both sexes, and we accept the reality of sex before wedlock.

Our laws relating to inher-

itance now largely recognize the claims of illegitimate offspring, and bastardy is no longer such a stigma. Despite all of these "modern" developments and areas of liberalization, marriage itself is still as central to us as it is to African villagers.

In initiation ceremonies, the young man is separated from his tribe so that he may return with a new status

The notion of unconstrained courtship in the 20th century is also rather mythical. Parental control is still much in evidence when it comes to the acceptability of boyfriends and girlfriends, and the influence of mothers and fathers is still significant when it comes to spouse selection. It is, in fact, during the 20th century that marriage has reached its peak as one of the most formalized rites of passage in our society.

The rise of overt promiscuity and cohabitation, which originated in the 1960s and developed during the 1970s, appeared to threaten the Western institution of marriage. All that really happened, however, was that the preliminaries were modified. Marriage was often delayed, being preceded by a period of what is known as "living in sin". When couples did marry, they increasingly chose a large-scale ceremony, with all its ritual and symbolism.

The form of the modern wedding is much in line with that found in many traditional cultures. There are exchanges of promises and vows, special clothes are worn, ritual foods are eaten and new relationships are created between families. Reflecting the traditional idea of the dowry, the bride's father is expected to

pay for the whole ceremony.

In traditional cultures, the marriage ceremony can be as simple as carrying firewood to the door of a woman's family and subsequently moving one's hammock next to hers. In more developed agricultural societies the ceremonies tend to be more elaborate, involving pre-nuptial rites, periods of seclusion of the bride, ritual foods and dress, formal processions through the streets, public announcements and ritualized, although generally private, forms of consummation of the marriage.

In modern societies the marriage is most often consummated during the period known as the honeymoon. Instead of proceeding directly to the new marital home, the couple isolate themselves from their families and friends. This is clearly to allow the rite of passage to be more firmly marked - in exactly the same way that, in the case of initiation ceremonies, the young man is first separated from his tribe so that he may return with a new status and identity. The honeymoon enables the newly-weds to return to their families and groups as people of quite different status and role.

One thing which symbolizes marriages in Western societies more clearly than anything else is the ritual cake. A recent study in Glasgow has shown that it is the single element which couples are least willing to dispense with, even when economic considerations might rule out most of the other trappings. The role of the wedding cake is equally significant in other cultures, and is central to marriage ceremonies in Cairo. Few people, however, have considered the real meaning of the traditional cake or investigated its symbolic role.

The modern Western wedding cake dates back to Victorian Britain. It is modelled on the elaborately tiered structures consumed on other occasions by royalty or the aristocracy. Its neat order, dimin-

ishing in size towards the top (fourth) level, symbolized the values of our culture at that time. Each layer represented a distinct stratum of society, from royalty at the top to the masses at the bottom. In the context of the wedding cere-

mony it equally signals order, regularity and security - all those things so intrinsically bound up with marriage itself. The whiteness of the cake, like that of the bridal gown, is a symbol of purity. Some writers have sug-

gested that the cutting of the cake represents the imminent loss of virginity which is (in theory at least) to be experienced by both partners. The bride and groom hold the knife together, and, in joint

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effort, force it through the hard crust of icing into the soft, yielding layer of marzipan and then into the moist mixture beneath. As a metaphor for the sexual act it is far from precise, but there are sufficient similarities to make such an interpretation at least half reasonable.

Whatever the true meaning of the cake, its most important contribution is that it adds to the ritual character of the event. In modern societies we need opportunities for formal ceremonies, even though they may be no longer fashionable. Like our counterparts in traditional cultures, we need to celebrate the newly legitimized sexual liaisons between our friends and relations.

The role of marriage shows no sign of weakening in our modern cultures. The need for regulating sexual behaviour and for cementing the ties between families is met in substantially the same ways in all societies, whether traditional or modern. Our reliance on essentially tribal marriage practices continues to be revealed not only in the pomp of cathedrals and churches but even in the characterless ante-rooms of register offices.

Wars with other tribes were organized according to prescribed ceremonies, rules and codes of conduct

Equally, there is little abatement of man's predilection for the other side of the tribal coin, the channelling of hostility and aggression towards "out-groups" or other tribes.

In traditional societies, the emerging sense of solidarity and loyalty created tensions between neighbouring groups for two basic reasons. First, when food was scarce, there arose the need to protect the hunting grounds from the predatory activities of outsiders. Second, tensions and frustrations needed to be directed towards outsiders in order to reduce the risk of conflicts within the group and to maintain tribal solidarity. Rivalries with other tribes, for real or imagined reasons, created the kind of collective feeling which, during the Second World War, the British referred to as "the Dunkirk spirit".

But, at least among the early tribes, it was important to keep the potential destructiveness of this aggressive activity under control. Otherwise its practical usefulness as a means of social cohesion would have been lost. If all skirmishes between rival tribes resulted in serious levels of fatalities, the risk of mutual annihilation would outweigh any potential benefits. Also, if tribes needed enemies with which to contrast themselves favourably, there was little to be gained from wiping out their rivals completely.

Early warfare thus developed into a largely symbolic activity in which the point of the exercise was rarely to kill people, more to achieve dominance and control over them. Just as conflicts within the group could be settled by ritual displays, chants and dances, so wars with other tribes came to be organized according to prescribed rules, ceremonies and mutually acceptable codes of conduct.

A study, made as recently as 1963, of the Dani of the New Guinea plains provides us with a classic example of the structure and function of tribal warfare. Their traditional modes of conflict provide us with insights into

the patterns of conflict that emerge in unlikely corners of modern societies.

In a typical New Guinea plains skirmish, challenges are issued by small groups of warriors who are sent out in the early morning to the no-man's lands which separate tribal territories. Such invitations to battle are invariably taken up and preparations begin. The timing of the battle is discussed. The weather forecast is taken into account. Rain is sufficient cause to abandon the fighting altogether. The Dani prepare themselves for war using elaborate face-paint and decorations made from bird feathers; such decorations can be ruined by a sudden downpour.

The actual fighting, when it does occur, resembles an elaborate ritual dance: a display rather than an encounter. Contact between rival groups rarely lasts for more than 10 minutes. The risks to life and limb are quite limited. The death of a single tribesman is greeted as a major disaster and can bring the battle to a swift conclusion; even a serious injury is seen as being an extraordinary event. The death toll from a year of war and fighting is usually 10 to 20 warriors, and this is in a culture where battles are an everyday feature of normal existence. Although arrows are discharged, they have no flights and, as a result, it is difficult to hit anything with them at a distance of more than 10 metres. And yet feathers and their properties are something which every Dani understands. We have to assume that they are deliberately made so that they will not fly in a straight line. Demonstrations of manly virtues and tribal solidarity can therefore be conducted without killing or being killed.

A similar pattern of aggressive behaviour has emerged in male youth cultures all over the modern world. The various youth tribes which have emerged in Britain since the Second World War have been renowned for their aggression. The Teddy Boys of the 1950s, the mods and rockers of the 1960s and the skinheads of the early 1970s all gained reputations for anarchic violence and destruction. From the mid-1960s, soccer fans established a media image of senseless and gratuitous thuggery and destructiveness. But detailed research has revealed quite a different aspect to youth-culture aggression.

Football fans not only have a clear social structure but also act within a strong framework of rules, conventions and rituals — those familiar hallmarks of tribal identification. The pattern of their violent activities is very close to that observed in traditional cultures. Outsiders are intimidated by their threatening postures, abusive language and violent threats, but in reality the number of serious injuries is remarkably low.

Research in Britain has consistently shown that although there are indeed many acts of violence committed by football fans in and around the stadia, the frequency and severity of these acts is not significantly above that which would be expected given a similar population of people in any other social context.

A study in Scotland examined levels of reported crime in areas where football grounds are situated. A comparison was made between those Saturdays when football was played and those when it was not. The conclusion was that football matches had no significant effect on levels of crime and violence.

In some cases there was even an indication that football matches led to a reduction in these levels. It should be stressed that this research was conducted not by radical sociologists but by the police. There are, of course, excep-



Together they stand: group loyalties and disciplines are as vital to the chalk-decorated Masai warriors as to any modern army, and have to be constantly fostered

Having an enemy is one of the easiest ways of reinforcing the social ties which bind a community together

stitutions for violence. In the way that the Dani wage largely bloodless wars, the fans can enter into confrontations with their rivals every week without significant risk of serious injury to themselves or their peers, despite the image of

bloodshed which surrounds their activity.

One major component of the soccer tribe's aggressive ritual is the use of stylized chants, used to denigrate their rivals. These chants, while very insulting, do not challenge the essential human quality of the opposition.

Along with the chanting go gestures and facial expressions which provide further channels for the expression of hostility. The style of these expressions and the form of the gestures may seem trivial, but they are important clues to the type of aggression and violence which is to be expected. The violence which occurs in these subcultures is essentially social, and thus constrained by the tacit rules which accompany all social activities.

The harsher the economic climate, however, the more violent the tribal aggression. The Yanomamo of the Venezuelan rain forest — known as "The Fierce People" — are surrounded by abundant vegetation, but there is a shortage of animal protein. Frequent skirmishes, over the matter of hunting territories, lead to many deaths. The Dani, on the other hand, with their abundance of crops and rich hunting territories, have no need to kill members of rival tribes. Tribal aggression remains reinforcing social bonds but lacking deadliness.

In modern tribes we see the same contrasts. Where there is no fundamental need for injurious violence, fighting becomes little more than ritual display. In harsher economic climates, however, the pattern of violence can change, and there are signs that this may be occurring in the soccer culture. With increased youth unemployment and social alienation, the ritual framework is often unable to contain the aggression. Violence of a quite different and essentially non-social kind is therefore emerging. This is also true of the street gangs in the major cities of the United States.

US youth gangs are distinctive tribal groups, occupying strictly delimited territories in major US urban areas. Many members control local narcotic sales. Protection rackets, involving extortion from shopkeepers, are common. Inter-gang violence is relatively uncommon, but when it occurs it can result in serious injuries and even fatalities. Virtually all gang mem-

bers carry weapons and the tribal rules for fighting are quite different from those found among British football fans, to whom the use of a weapon is generally seen as a form of cowardice, especially if one's rival is unarmed. European youth tribes have, in some cases, recently begun to escalate their level of violence. We have seen this on the soccer terraces in Britain and among the Ultras of Italian football stadia. Italian fans, having borrowed much of their style from their British counterparts, have created tribes which are similar to their street-gang contemporaries in New York and Los Angeles. Theirs is the violence of alienated youth looking for easy scapegoats. It flows not from the process of tribal bonding but from the lack of identity and personal involvement characteristic of our over-large modern societies. The return to tribalism is here a defensive reaction — one which fosters, rather than constrains, the anger and frustrations of daily life.

Because of all the fortifications on Italian football grounds, the clans have little opportunity for physical contact with their rivals, and so must vent their aggression through symbolic displays. Unlike the British, who rely principally on songs, chants and gestures, the Ultras pound drums constantly throughout the game, set fire to rubbish on the terraces and create an almost impenetrable fog using smoke flares and fireworks.

The process of creating tribal solidarity through the victimization of others has been evident in the development of such organizations as the Ku Klux Klan. It is also identifiable in British only come about in a non-tribal context. The whole business of mass extermination was carried out in a methodical and detached manner. Such acts can be conducted with so little concern only when the targets have been successfully reduced to sub-human status.

Our age-old hunting instincts, coupled with our unique ability to transform, symbolically, the nature of our targets of aggression, allow us to do things which would otherwise be unthinkable. When we become hunters who lack a tribe, we achieve the dubious distinction of being the most murderous species alive.

Sport in modern society is

longer have much real function in modern culture, which is so heavily reliant on intellectual and technical abilities. Even so, we show no signs of abandoning the celebration of them; indeed, we preserve them in tribal rituals which deify the most skilled exponents and which bind groups together in collective support of their champions.

As the anthropologist Alyce Cheska has pointed out, the need for repetitive ritual is most apparent in traditional agricultural societies. Planting and harvesting are recurring times of considerable economic importance, and are therefore marked by distinctive ceremonies. Some of these rituals remain with us. However, these celebrations, like harvest festivals, are no longer such a central feature in our cultures. In a technologically sophisticated society, the passage of time is measured in a different way. Sporting occasions bring back a way of segmenting the year through the introduction of what are known technically as calendrical divisions.

In Britain, major divisions of the calendar occur with the onset of the football season in late August and its climax at the FA Cup Final in May. Because of the influence of commercial interests, this season overlaps with the traditional times for playing cricket, causing some dilution of the accuracy with which the seasonal changes are marked. In the US, the sporting seasons are more directly related to the primeval system of dividing up the year. The football "bowls" are held around the winter solstice, baseball finals occur around the autumnal equinox, and the basketball championships mark the onset of spring.

Regularity in sport is ensured through the rigid rule structure imposed upon it. Small modifications might be allowed, but major changes are strongly resisted by both players and spectators, who wish to preserve the security which the ritual activity provides. As in the case of other ceremonies, such as marriages, funerals and baptisms, there is a need to preserve continuity of experience — to establish the degree of routine predictability which is ever-present in tribal communities, but which is often lost in the chaos of modern societies.

The rule books of sports are very much like religious bibles. They contain not only the "commandments", but also the basic tenets of sacred dogma and values. In soccer, for example, the rules determine the dimensions and shape of the "sacred" territory of the playing field and prescribe specific activities. The offence of "ungentlemanly behaviour" covers a wide range of possible acts which are in breach of the concepts of fairness and dignity that lie at the heart of the game. The team we support represents an ideal community of people to which we can feel a sense of commitment and belonging.

Emotionality is a most apparent and ever-present feature of sports spectacles. The drama of the occasion is highly charged with passion — both the ecstasy which comes from victory and the abject misery associated with defeat. For those directly involved in the enactment of the drama, there are special rewards and costs, but the same goes for the thousands or, through television, the millions of spectators who share the emotional experience.

Sporting events provide some of the few occasions on which ordinary people have the chance to engage in emotional risk. Lives in modern cultures tend to be ordered and regulated by impersonal processes and mechanisms. Deliberately sought-after emotional risk therefore brings, in the context of the communal, ritual activity, a heightening of bonds between the members of the tribe.

Extracted from *Tribes* by Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh, to be published by Pyramid on October 21, price £14.95.

the child of the traditions of our hunting ancestors. Within stadia and arenas around the world we find both symbolic reminders of our origins and reflections of the cultural forces which have shaped so much of our development as social animals.

Most sport involves skills which were once essential for survival within hunting communities. Speed and agility, coupled with an accurate aim and fine co-ordination, are characteristics of virtually all the mass-appeal games. Additional requirements in many sports are territorial defence, stamina and physical strength. These skills and attributes no

With increased alienation, the ritual framework is often unable to contain the aggression

longer have much real function in modern culture, which is so heavily reliant on intellectual and technical abilities. Even so, we show no signs of abandoning the celebration of them; indeed, we preserve them in tribal rituals which deify the most skilled exponents and which bind groups together in collective support of their champions.

As the anthropologist Alyce Cheska has pointed out, the need for repetitive ritual is most apparent in traditional agricultural societies. Planting and harvesting are recurring times of considerable economic importance, and are therefore marked by distinctive ceremonies. Some of these rituals remain with us. However, these celebrations, like harvest festivals, are no longer such a central feature in our cultures. In a technologically sophisticated society, the passage of time is measured in a different way. Sporting occasions bring back a way of segmenting the year through the introduction of what are known technically as calendrical divisions.

In Britain, major divisions of the calendar occur with the onset of the football season in late August and its climax at the FA Cup Final in May. Because of the influence of commercial interests, this season overlaps with the traditional times for playing cricket, causing some dilution of the accuracy with which the seasonal changes are marked. In the US, the sporting seasons are more directly related to the primeval system of dividing up the year. The football "bowls" are held around the winter solstice, baseball finals occur around the autumnal equinox, and the basketball championships mark the onset of spring.

Regularity in sport is ensured through the rigid rule structure imposed upon it. Small modifications might be allowed, but major changes are strongly resisted by both players and spectators, who wish to preserve the security which the ritual activity provides. As in the case of other ceremonies, such as marriages, funerals and baptisms, there is a need to preserve continuity of experience — to establish the degree of routine predictability which is ever-present in tribal communities, but which is often lost in the chaos of modern societies.

The rule books of sports are very much like religious bibles. They contain not only the "commandments", but also the basic tenets of sacred dogma and values. In soccer, for example, the rules determine the dimensions and shape of the "sacred" territory of the playing field and prescribe specific activities. The offence of "ungentlemanly behaviour" covers a wide range of possible acts which are in breach of the concepts of fairness and dignity that lie at the heart of the game. The team we support represents an ideal community of people to which we can feel a sense of commitment and belonging.

Emotionality is a most apparent and ever-present feature of sports spectacles. The drama of the occasion is highly charged with passion — both the ecstasy which comes from victory and the abject misery associated with defeat. For those directly involved in the enactment of the drama, there are special rewards and costs, but the same goes for the thousands or, through television, the millions of spectators who share the emotional experience.

Sporting events provide some of the few occasions on which ordinary people have the chance to engage in emotional risk. Lives in modern cultures tend to be ordered and regulated by impersonal processes and mechanisms. Deliberately sought-after emotional risk therefore brings, in the context of the communal, ritual activity, a heightening of bonds between the members of the tribe.

Extracted from *Tribes* by Desmond Morris and Peter Marsh, to be published by Pyramid on October 21, price £14.95.

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INTERVIEW

A poet's wife and letters

T.S. Eliot's poetry so captured Valerie Fletcher's heart that she devoted her life to him. First she became his secretary; then she married him. Next week, *The Times* publishes extracts from her collection of the poet's letters. Bryan Appleyard met her

NIGEL PARRY



Valerie Eliot's labour of love is to set straight the record about her late husband: "Tom said he thought he had paid too high a price to be a poet..."

In 1941, when she was 14, Valerie Fletcher was a pupil at Queen Anne's School, Caversham. One day her class was playing a record of John Gielgud reading T.S. Eliot's poem of 1927, "Journey of the Magi".

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."

She had been devoted to poetry for as long as she had been able to read. She consumed verse widely and voraciously and, until that day, her heroes among modern writers had been Stephen Spender and Louis MacNeice. But the sound of Eliot's mournful music shook her more than anything she had ever heard or read.

"I was bowled over. It just hit me. I can't say more than that," she recalls, speaking rapidly and in a polite, matter-of-fact tone. "The whole feeling of Tom in it — and the impression I formed then — was borne out right through marriage and everything. After that I just tried to find out everything I could about him. It's a very hard thing to express. It was something very sympathetic. His confessor once said of him in old age that he had a truly childlike heart. I think that was very true. Perhaps as an adolescent I just picked that up."

From that moment her devotion to that childlike heart and to the genius who possessed it was to be unwavering. The 20th century's greatest poet became the centre of her life. For reasons she still finds impossible to explain, the steady, anguished, questioning rhythm of that poem changed everything. "Hearing that poetry was just a completely new experience."

Soon afterwards Colin Brooks, a magazine editor and a friend both of Eliot's and of her parents, gave a lecture in her home town of Leeds. He visited the family and asked Valerie what she planned to do when she grew up.

"I want," she replied at once, "to be T.S. Eliot's secretary." Brooks said: "Why not?"

Some instant, indefinable connection appeared to have been made between a schoolgirl and a man whose nature and gift have intrigued and baffled two generations of scholars and critics.

She began as a teenage fan, became his secretary, his second wife and, since his death in 1965, has devoted herself to the task of editing his letters, collecting all the material he ever wrote, and editing for publication the original draft of *The Waste Land*, his greatest poem.

Where the world perceived in Eliot an awesome and indecipherable complexity, she appeared, with complete simplicity, to know him at once. During his final coma he recovered consciousness once to say one word — "Valerie".

Brooks's elementary advice to her was to enrol in a secretarial course. Her parents disapproved, but, undeterred, she went to college in London. She found the course tedious, but did write to Faber & Faber, the publishers where Eliot worked, to ask if they had any vacancies. There were none. She succeeded, however, in establishing a literary connection by working for the novelists Paul Capon and Charles Morgan. Finally, in 1949, Brooks told her Eliot was looking for a secretary and "was being rather difficult about it".

She went to the Faber offices in Russell Square to inquire. For two hours she walked up and down outside, summoning up the courage to go in. Eventually she managed to enter and arrange an interview with the chairman, Peter Du Sautoy, who, it was agreed, would then take her to meet Eliot.

"He was just everything I had ever imagined him to be. He was in this little Dickensian office and he was as terrified as I was. He smoked and smoked. I had been so nervous I had cut my hand the night before on a tin and it was all wrapped up."

"We talked about 17th-century poetry and so on and, as I was leaving, he put his chin round the edge of the door and told me that he had to see all of the applicants before he made a decision. I knew there were a lot of other girls — one of them had a double first at Oxford. But then he paused, looked at my hand and said: 'But I hope you'll be able to type in about 10 days' time.' Two days later a letter arrived asking her to start work on September 12.

In fact, that interview had not been the first time she had seen Eliot in the flesh. During the war years, while in Leeds, she had read an advertisement in *The Times* for a poetry reading at the Wigmore Hall in London. She bought a ticket and travelled down for the day.

"It was very disappointing. Tom kept his head down throughout the reading and I went back feeling very flat. I complained to him about it years later and he said he would have waved if he had known."

She had also, like many other Eliot fans, made the journey to St Stephen's in west London where he was a church

warden. The point was not the service itself, but rather the thrill of putting your money into a collection box brought round by the great man himself.

She was to be his secretary for almost eight years until he finally proposed to her at the end of 1956. By the time she began work for him, Eliot had long ceased to be seen as an avant-garde modernist innovator. Instead, he was known as a devout High Anglican, a Nobel prizewinner, a successful playwright and, unquestionably, the head of the English literary establishment.

Her work brought her into contact with the great figures that surrounded him — she recalls arguments over non-payment of rent with Wyndham Lewis's landlady — and he constantly drew her into his editorial decision-making.

But their relationship remained professional and formal — she invariably called him "Mr Eliot" — until his proposal at the Faber & Faber offices. He was to say he would have asked her earlier, but was not sure of her real feelings towards him.

Marriage, for Eliot more than most, was a big step. Before he had finally left America for England in 1915, he had been convinced of his love for a fellow American, Emily Hale. Marriage to her would have meant a commitment to America and a career as a teacher of philosophy. But in 1915, in Valerie's words, he "burnt his boats" and devoted himself to poetry and England. Eliot himself later linked this decision to his marriage to Vivien Haigh-Wood. It was, in personal terms, a disastrous relationship. Vivien was repeatedly ill and descended finally into insanity. She died in a home in 1947.

"To her the marriage brought no happiness," Eliot was to write, "to me, it brought the state of mind out of which came *The Waste Land*."

Valerie says: "He was quite aware that he would not have written *The Waste Land* if he had not been unhappy with Vivien. But he quite saw that if he had been happy with someone like Emily he might never have written great poetry. He might have been just another professor of philosophy. He said he could imagine the husband Vivien should have married and he could have imagined the right husband for Emily. But neither was him."

It was the agony of his marriage to Vivien that prompted one of his most poignant and celebrated remarks to Valerie: "He said he thought he had paid too high a price to be a poet..."

After the proposal, Eliot was determined to keep the impending wedding a secret — "We were secretly engaged," Valerie recalls. "I wore a finger stall to hide my ring. Very few people knew, we kept it dark until the very last minute. He wanted to avoid the press. We didn't even dare to go to St Stephen's in case we were recognized. People think these days if you are private you have something to hide. But he was a very shy man."

They were married at 6.15 in the morning on January 10, 1957, at St Barnabas's Church in Kensington. Valerie was 30 and Eliot 68. They went on honeymoon to Menton. There the press finally caught up with them, having been tipped off by the man from Godfrey Davis who had driven them to the airport.

Valerie was to provide Eliot, in the last eight years of his life, with the kind of happiness that must have seemed beyond his reach after the long nightmare of his first marriage. They were inseparable, yet he still wrote to her weekly. His *Collected Poems* ends with "A Dedication to my Wife" which evokes the sudden sense of relaxation she brought to his life.

"Of lovers whose bodies smell of each other
Who think the same thoughts without
need of speech
And babble the same speech without
need of meaning."

For Valerie, the marriage represented the consummation of what had, in effect, been a love affair lasting 16 years. She had discovered for herself precisely the man she had first recognized in the rhythms of "Journey of the Magi". "Certainly he is the centre of my life," she still says today. "It just seems natural to me. I just take it for granted. I can't analyse it, it is the most natural thing in the world to me."

Yet, on their marriage, she was shocked to discover that Eliot had forbidden any future publication of his letters. She had known he was against the idea of a biography, but had assumed the letters, many of which had passed through her hands, would be published.

"He insisted. I was surprised because it hadn't occurred to me. But he was adamant at first. But I used to read to him every evening and I inserted into the reading a lot of poets' letters and so on. Finally, one evening he burst out laughing and said: 'All right, you win!' He said he had destroyed a lot of his letters and that he wouldn't have done if he had known he was going to marry me."

This was the start of the huge project on which she was to embark after his death. Her inspiration is her determination to set the record straight. She

feels her husband has been repeatedly misrepresented and misrepresented.

"I think the people who have written about him — apart from Mr Ackroyd's book, which I haven't actually read but which I realize was sincere and serious — have been a pretty poor lot."

In fact, there seems to have been a conspiracy to use Eliot, to transform him into the man people wanted to see. Valerie recalls the day Groucho Marx came to dinner. Eliot had been an admirer and occasionally used Groucho's one-liners.

"We had him to dinner, which was a great mistake, really. He was obviously awed by Tom and he kept saying things like 'As I was saying to Jack'. Tom, who was busily carving away, hissed to me 'Who's Jack?' and I hissed back 'Kennedy'. Eventually Tom just sat back looking bored. Groucho was so dull. He then went off and published an account and sold the letters. The account said the Eliots' butler did this and then did that. We never had a butler in our lives. Now that butler comes up in thesis after thesis."

But the two most painful lies she wants to correct are both about Vivien. The first is the suggestion that it was Eliot who had her committed to a mental home.

"But I have a handwritten letter from Maurice Haigh-Wood, her brother, written at a time when Tom was away, saying she had been found wandering around

London telling everyone that Tom had been beheaded and the police kept picking her up. The doctors put her in a home for her own safety."

The second concerns a brutal telegram Eliot is reputed to have sent cancelling a lunch with the excuse that he had to "bury a woman". The woman was said to be Vivien. Valerie describes this story as "sheer malice". The incident actually happened 18 months after Vivien's death. The funeral was of an old friend, Mrs Mirless, and the wording of the telegram was entirely proper.

Since 1965 the documentation behind such details, as well as the whole huge, dispersed mass of Eliot's contacts and his writing, have been Valerie's life. She began collecting his letters in 1965, but the work was almost immediately interrupted by a literary bombshell. In the summer of 1968 she was told that the original manuscript of *The Waste Land* was in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library. It had been privately sold to them in 1958.

For the moment, the letters had to be forgotten. The manuscript consisted of Eliot's original version of the poem. In

1921 he had given this to Ezra Pound, perhaps the one serious rival for Eliot's role as the greatest poet of his generation. With unerring genius, Pound saw the heart of the poem and cut the manuscript extensively. Eliot accepted his revisions without question, but, equally, Pound knew that his friend had produced a masterpiece.

"Compliment, you bitch," Pound wrote to Eliot in characteristic style. "I am racked by the seven jealousies." Eliot responded by dedicating the poem to Pound — "Il miglior fabbro". And Eliot later told Valerie that, if the manuscript was ever found, it was to be published "to show what Ezra did for me".

Valerie had, in fact, met Pound soon after Eliot's death at the time of the memorial service for Eliot in Westminster Abbey.

"He contacted me from Italy to ask if I would receive him if he came to London. He came round to the flat after the service. We hugged each other. We sat by the fire and talked a bit. He went into every room looking at things of Tom's. It was very haunting, really. He held a photo of Tom on his knee all the time."

Later he was to meet Valerie in New York to see the manuscript on which, almost 50 years before, he had scribbled in crayon. He looked at it and burst into tears. Pound was later to tell Valerie that, if Eliot had waited until his health was better, he could have made the cuts and improvements himself.

The manuscript was finally published in 1972 and Valerie could return to her laborious collecting of the letters. Now, at last, with the publication of the first volume, she is beginning to glimpse an end to this work. In her flat there are still 10 boxes of letters and it is not yet clear how many volumes they will eventually fill. Meanwhile, there will be more work to fill her days on the unpublished fragments from the Berg Collection and assembling his uncollected critical essays. One day, she says, she will get round to appointing an official biographer.

"I don't think Tom was ever thinking of posterity. He just wanted people to read his work, he thought the life was not

important. He thought of himself in different ways at different times — sometimes he thought of himself as a minor George Herbert or a minor Elizabethan. Some days he was so full of self-doubt about what he had achieved..."

Valerie Eliot's story would be extraordinary in the context of any famous man; in the context of Eliot it takes on legendary qualities. To the world he may seem like a man of the most extreme contradictions. He wrote *The Waste Land*, a bleak and incomparably beautiful vision of a world without truth, and yet he also wrote the greatest religious poetry of his day.

His poetry for children has been the inspiration of *Cats*, the most commercially successful pop musical in the world, and yet he has a reputation for coldness and the worst stories told about him all indicate people's need to believe that, though he may have been a genius, he was without humanity.

But the diversity is a function of his immense gift. His work is great precisely because of the way it offers almost as many versions of itself as there are readers. Yet Valerie, at the age of 14, seems to have seen it all at once. To her he was Tom. In the emptiness of *The Waste Land* she saw the religion of *Four Quartets* and, in his days of self-doubt and depression, she saw the legacy of his first marriage. For the point is that, where others saw a dazzling and baffling series of masks, she saw one man — "I never thought of Tom in fragments, you know. I saw the totality of Tom."

Her voice is nervous and gentle, her manner formal and correct. For years she has been a haunting figure around literary London. At cocktail parties amid minor or debatable talents she has stood there — always in startlingly vivid clothes — as the living representative of one of the century's few indisputable geniuses. Now with the letters she begins the process of delivering "Tom" to his public, whole and unfragmented.

"I think the time has come to let Tom speak for himself. He's had enough interpretation."

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NEXT WEEK

Lady Ottoline Morrell, Ezra Pound and Virginia Woolf were among the many friends and admirers with whom T.S. Eliot corresponded. To mark the centenary of his birth, *The Times* next week will publish extracts from the first volume of his collected letters. They begin on Monday with a portrait of the poet as a young — and enthusiastic — banker.



THE TIMES COOK

Berries for jellies for game

Frances Bissell makes the most of sweet and savoury combinations at the turning of the season

DIANA LEADBETTER

Autumn will not be ignored. The soft summer berries are gone, giving way to blackberries and blueberries. Nectarines and peaches come from the cold store, and I ignore these now in favour of the crisp and fragrant new season's English apples. Discovery, Worcester Pearmain, the beautifully named Egremont Russet and Tydemans Early.

Muscats grapes from Italy and figs from Turkey or France are expensive treats. From nearer home come all the lovely plums for jam-making, the Victorias and the Majorities Seedlings. Let us not forget the wild berries and fruits which can be turned into jewel-bright jellies: crab apples, blackberries, elderberries, bullaces, rosehips and rowan berries.

In today's recipes I include one for rowan berries, since a reader wrote to me a couple of weeks ago pointing out that the harvest promised to be a good one. You can use the same basic method for all the fruit jellies. They go particularly well with game dishes, which is a happy coincidence since the game season is now well under way. My first game dish of the season is usually pigeon and today is no exception. But rather than give it the more traditional rich casserole treatment, I decided to prepare it in a lighter manner. It goes very well with the crunchy, steamed vegetables in this rather oriental flavoured dish.

What else heralds autumn? Mushrooms. Not that many of us are lucky enough to have our own patches where we go to pick oops or chanterelles, and it will be a long time before that particular wild food is tamed and farmed. Nevertheless, the variety of mushrooms available to us is increasing. Once we could only buy the buttons, cups and flat cultivated mushrooms. Now oyster mushrooms and shiitakes are becoming increasingly available. The latter, particularly, have a deep mushroomy flavour which makes them perfect in risottos and sauces for pasta.

I have been cooking risottos a lot this year, experimenting with different vegetables, stocks and wines. One of the best was an early summer risotto of fennel and champagne. The mushroom and red wine risotto was a close second and more unusual.

A number of my recipes call for stock. This does not necessarily mean a chicken or veal stock. A

perfectly good stock can be made from vegetables, and is, of course, essential if you are adopting my recipes for vegetarians. It is worth investing in some dried beans and lentils of different types, not only for this stock, as there will be plenty of bean dishes in the coming weeks.

This is useful for making vegetable soups and risottos but also makes an excellent mid-day snack.

Vegetable broth
Makes about 3 pints/1.7l
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 onion
1 carrot
2 celery stalks
1 leek
½ lb/225g tomatoes
parsley stalks
watercress stalks
1oz/30g lentils
1oz/30g dried beans
1oz/30g chick peas

4 pints/2.1l water
salt, pepper

Put the olive oil in a large saucepan. Peel and slice the vegetables, and fry the onion until it begins to brown and caramelize. This will give the broth a good colour. Add the rest of the vegetables. Rinse the pulses, and put in the saucepan together with 3 pints/1.7l water. Bring to the boil, and simmer for two to three hours, partly covered. Strain into a bowl. Return the debris to the pan with 1 pint/570ml water. Bring to the boil, cook for 15 minutes, and strain into the rest of the broth, pressing well down. Cool and chill until required.

Pigeon breasts with sweet and sour vegetables
Serves 4

4 plump tender pigeons
crushed juniper berries
ground black pepper
2 celery hearts or

6 sticks celery
½ lb/225g white cabbage
2 carrots
2 leeks
6oz/170g mushrooms
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 level tablespoon
unrefined brown sugar
2 teaspoons lemon juice
or wine vinegar

Carefully remove the breasts from the pigeons. Brown the rest of the carcasses in a heavy saucepan, add 3 pints/1.7l water and the trimmings from the vegetables, simmer gently until you have a rich tasty stock to be used as the base for a game soup or the mushroom risotto. Season the breasts with freshly ground black pepper and the crushed juniper berries.

Peel and finely slice or shred the vegetables. Place in a steamer basket with the mushrooms on top, and steam until tender but not soggy.

Meanwhile, cook the pigeon

breasts, either in a non-stick frying pan, a well-seasoned, cast-iron pan or under a hot grill, for two to four minutes on each side depending on how well cooked you like them. Allow to rest in a warm place on a plate. When the vegetables are cooked, tip them into a bowl. Mix the soy sauce, sugar and vinegar, and stir this into the vegetables until they are well coated and the sugar has melted. Divide among four heated dinner plates. Slice each breast in two, and arrange four slices on each plate, pouring over any cooking juices collected on the plate. Serve with brown rice or potatoes.

Mushroom and red wine risotto is such a robust, powerful and unusual dish that I think it stands best on its own with perhaps a salad, cheese and fruit to follow for a simple lunch or dinner.

As to the wine that you use, I would suggest a Cabernet Sauvignon or a Chianti, but I have the feeling that it is a dish which would lend itself to even more

experiments. For mushrooms, use wild or cultivated, one single variety or a mixture. Shiitake, oyster and cup mushrooms are a fine combination.

Mushroom and red wine risotto
Serves 4 to 5 as a starter,
2 to 3 as main course

2½oz/70g butter or olive oil
1 onion or 3 shallots
½ lb/225g mushrooms
8-10oz/225-280g Arborio rice
½ pint/280ml red wine
up to 1½ pints/850ml meat,
game or vegetable stock
salt, pepper
2oz/60g freshly grated
Parmesan

Heat half the butter or oil in a heavy frying pan or "sauteuse", and in it fry the peeled and thinly sliced onion or shallot. Wipe and slice the mushrooms, and add these to the pan. Make sure they are well-coated with butter or oil before adding the rice. Bring the

wine to the boil, and pour half of it over the rice. When it has been absorbed, add the rest. Put the stock in the same saucepan and bring it to the boil. Once all the wine has been absorbed, add the stock, about ¼ pint/140ml at a time, only adding more when the rest has been absorbed. You may not need to use all the stock. The rice may be cooked and creamy after you have put in about 1½ pints/990ml. Stir in the rest of the butter or oil and the parmesan cheese, and serve in heated soup plates. Decorate with parsley or chervil if you wish.

We always think of sage as a flavouring for savoury dishes, but its warm, spicy fragrance can also enhance sweet dishes, particularly fruits.

Sage and honey poached pears
Serves 4

4 pears of even size
2 level tablespoons honey
Juice of ½ lemon
1 or 2 small sprigs of sage
fresh sage leaves
for decoration

Peel the fruit, and cut a thin slice from the base so that they will stand upright. Trickle the honey over the pears. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons water, lemon juice and the sprigs of sage. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for 15 minutes. Remove the pears, and place them in individual bowls. Reduce the liquid until syrupy, and pour a little over each pear. Decorate with fresh sage leaves. Chill and serve.

Rowan jelly

4lb/1.8kg rowan berries
5 tablespoons lemon juice
1½ pint/850ml water
granulated sugar

Strip the rowan berries from their stems and rinse thoroughly. Put them in a pan with the lemon juice and water. Simmer gently until the fruit is soft, about 40 to 45 minutes. Then strain through a jelly bag without squeezing or the jelly will be cloudy. Measure the juice and allow 1lb/455g sugar to each pint/570ml juice. Warm the sugar, then add to the still warm juice, and heat gently, stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Boil rapidly until setting point is reached, and pour into clean, hot jars. Cover and seal in the usual way.

FOOD

Apples of the English eye

A celebration of our favourite native fruit, now enjoying a vigorous revival



The English Apple, a beautifully illustrated guide to 122 varieties (including Lady Sodeley, above) by Rosanne Sanders, is published by Phaidon in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, £19.95

dessert apple until well into the 18th century. Its culinary partner was Costard, best remembered because it gave us the word "costermonger". Henry VIII had his fruiterer, Richard Harris, import

varieties from France, and his orchard at Teynham in Kent became a model for others, but many new apples came into being from the chance planting of a pip in a cottage garden. They include

FARM SHOPS AND APPLE ADDRESSES

The Royal Horticultural Society apple collection of 750 cultivars at Wisley, Surrey, is open Monday to Saturday 10am-7pm (members only Sunday). Admission for non-members £2.50.

The National Trust of Scotland's historic apple walk is at Priorwood Garden and Orchard (089 682 2493), adjacent to Melrose Abbey, near Galashiels. Open April to December, 10am-5.30pm weekdays, 1.30-5.30pm Sundays, admission free. Appleforth Abbey, (04393 440) Appleforth, Yorkshire, offers orchards gate sales of 50 to 60 varieties from September to April (not

Sundays). Hewitts Farm, Chelshfield, Orpington, Kent (0959 34271) sells 600 tonnes of apples in 41 varieties on a pick-your-own basis or through its farm market. Open seven days a week. A two-day Apple Festival will be held next weekend.

Other good apple farm shops include Stonham Barns, Stonham Aspal near Stowmarket, Suffolk (closed Mondays); Sharwood Farm Shop, New England Lane, Sedlescombe, Battle, Sussex; and Blackmoor Estate Apple Shop, Liss, Hampshire (closed Mondays - Open Day Sunday, October 16).

Robin Young

DRINK

Undiscovered treasure

Where were the British wine buyers when the French came to town last week?

Judging from last week's London "mini-fair" of lesser-known French wines, hosted by Sopexa, the French government's ultra-efficient food and wine promotion arm, the UK wine trade prefers to spend its limited wine-buying hours having a jolly time in France than buying French wines for its customers that taste like *cru classe claret*, or *grand cru burgundy*, but at half the price.

Although about 400 wine buyers, sellers and writers attended, three times that number accepted but failed to turn up at this two-day event. Perhaps wine buyers were put off by the venue, the unlovely Novotel at Hammesmire, rather than the swankier and more central locations of the Dorchester and Connaught Rooms used previously. Whatever the reason, they missed a golden opportunity for renewing contacts, tasting hundreds of classic French wine taste-alikes, and picking up vital forward purchasing information, such as the state of the imminent 1988 French wine harvest.

Thankfully for Great Britain's more cost-conscious yet still discerning wine drinkers, a handful of leading British wine buyers did show up, notably from Asda, Grants of St James's, Victoria Wine, Majestic Wine Warehouses and Waitrose. The Wine Society buyer was also there, as was the Co-op's, Sainsbury's called in briefly.

The French were none too thrilled by the British buyers' lack of interest, and who can blame them? There were 97 French wine firms at this event. Given that the top man from each firm had bothered to cross the Channel and had brought with him at least six of his best wines, buyers at this fair could have had the pick of more than 500 readily available French wines, from unassuming regions such as the Côtes de Bordeaux, Côte Chalonnaise and Languedoc-Roussillon, all of which are capable of giving us classic taste-trips at non-classic prices.

Fair is like these are not, of course, an adequate substitute for researches and time spent on the spot, but it was shameful that British buyers did not treat it more seriously, especially since we have just

regained our position as the leading export market for French wines and spirits, last held by us in 1978: in the first six months of this year imports of French wines and spirits added up to a hefty 2.3 million French francs (an increase of 26 per cent), beating America and Germany into second and third places respectively.

The lost vineyards of Burgundy which were strongly represented at the fair, mostly at the co-operative level which, for a big supermarket buyer, who needs large quantities of the same wine, is almost the only Burgundy source that is practical. Chablis, given its stratospheric prices and celebrated reputation, can hardly be described as a lesser-known French wine, but La Chablisienne is such a starry co-operative that I forgave them.

Les Caves des Hautes Côtes, another splendid Burgundy co-op, was here too, and their fine '85 Hautes-Côtes de Beaune, a Tête de Cuvée blend, is blessed with a smashing rich, victoria plum and damson-like taste and texture (Sainsbury's, £5.65).

Bordeaux was represented by the Côtes de Bordeaux, an up-and-coming right-bank region, whose unsung properties stare moodily across the Gironde river to those Medoc chateaux whose names and wines the world knows so well. 1983 Chateau de Belcier, from the Côtes de Castillon, the finest Côtes region, was even more deliciously tasted at the fair than it was when I visited the chateau last year: a lovely ripe, soft scented, cedary mouthful, with backbone and tannin too. On sale currently at £3.39 a bottle from Winecellars (153-155 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18) and £3.99 from the Market instead of £3.85 and £4.25.

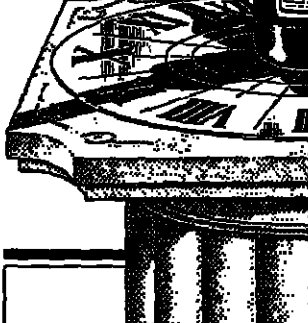
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THE ARTS

A curiously British affair

As Sir Brian Rix prepares for the West End revival of the Fifties farce *Dry Rot*, Sheridan Morley talks to its author, John Chapman — now a sitcom writer

Dry Rot, the farce that brings Sir Brian Rix back to the theatre after a decade away running the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, is also the farce with which Rix made one of his first great successes as an actor-manager at the Whitehall, back in 1954. Its author, John Chapman, now best known for a succession of television sitcom hits such as *Happy Ever After* and *Fresh Fields*, was then a young player in the Rix company.

"My uncle was the actor Edward Chapman, and my grandparents were opera singers, so I suppose it was inevitable I'd end up in the theatre, though my father wanted me to join him in engineering and I did think about that for all of five minutes. Then I went to RADA in the generation of Dorothy Tutin and Joan Collins, because in those days it was still dominated by women, and after that I got a job understudying at the Whitehall.

"Brian was in his middle twenties, only a year or two older than me but already running the company, which made me feel a bit unachieving. In *Reluctant Heroes* I played two soldiers, understudied all the other men and did the assistant stage-managing, but that still left me with all my non-matinee days free; and as I was still living at home, my father really couldn't bear it. He was then going off to have ulcers in the office every morning and said I shouldn't be idle all day just because I was acting at night, so to keep him quiet I began trying to write a play.

"Wally Patch was then one of the leaders of Brian's Whitehall company, a huge cockney actor with a wayward charm for the girls, and I always knew that if I could capture some of that on paper I'd have a marvellous central character for a farce. I had no real idea of a plot, but I did know that it would be possible to have him as the main character. Before 1945 all leading characters in farce were vacuous aristocrats, but the war had changed that; by the time I started to write *Dry Rot* there had been three huge hits (*Worm's Eye View*, *Seagulls Over Sorrento* and *Reluctant Heroes*), all of which were by different authors, but all of which promoted lower-deck characters to starring roles for the first time. Chainless wonders were no longer in fashion."

But before he could finish *Dry Rot*, Chapman had in fact left the Whitehall company: "I knew that if I was going to be an actor I would have to get experience in something other than *Reluctant Heroes*, so although Brian said I was mad to leave a hit I went off to Folkestone and Weston-super-Mare in weekly repertory, and suddenly twigged what it was that

made plays work. If you do about 50 a year, rehearsing a new one every week, then you learn a lot about the mechanics of the stage. "On my spare Sundays I finished *Dry Rot*, and took it back to the Whitehall for an opinion: Brian said that if I could add a part for him, then he'd put it into production after *Reluctant Heroes*; so I did that, and while I was at it added a part for myself as well. Sadly Wally Patch's voice packed up so it was John Slater in the role that Brian is playing now, but the rest of that original team stayed together for another 12 years in farces that I and Michael Pertwee and Ray Cooney wrote for them."

Dry Rot, about crooked bookies trying to switch a horse, first opened in 1954, an extremely rich summer for long-runners (*Salad Days* and the Joyce Grenfell solo show also came into the West End at that time), but to reviews which, while by no means actively hostile, were something less than raves. By that time however, Rix had his Whitehall audience firmly established: not since Ben Travers at the pre-war Aldwych, with Tom Walls, Robertson Hare and Ralph Lynn, had there been a theatre which so lovingly nurtured, and reliably performed for, an audience who went in knowing precisely what they were going to get in the way of fallen-trousers jokes.

But *Dry Rot* almost failed to happen there, as Chapman recalls: "A few weeks after I'd delivered the script, and we were just about to go into rehearsal, there was a story somewhere in a local West Country paper that three bookies had indeed just been arrested for trying to switch a horse in order to lose a race and fix the betting. I could prove that I'd written my farce before this actually happened, but the lawyers still thought that if the bookies got off in court they could sue us for defamation. So we all sat around in some terror for several weeks until the case came up.

"The bookies were all found guilty, and so the lawyers reckoned they were unlikely to sue, especially as I think most of them then went to prison. Later they got out and I think one of them even came to the theatre, though I didn't go out of my way to meet him in case he was very strong."

Despite the initially mixed reviews, *Dry Rot* lasted four years at the Whitehall, though after two of them Chapman left the company.

"I knew by then that I really wanted to be a writer and not an actor, so I went home to write *Simple Spymen* and that also ran over twelve hundred performances, so I'd have been a raving idiot to go on being a not very wonderful actor. I still sometimes rather miss it though, and I begin



Fading laughter: John Chapman thinks Alan Ayckbourn has "gone very dark now, and my next play is more serious: perhaps it was easier to be funny about life in the Fifties"

'If Brian has managed to get back to acting after a decade, then maybe I could after a quarter-century'

to think now that if Brian has managed to get back to it after a decade, then maybe I could after a quarter-century."

From the Whitehall, Chapman went on to collaborate with Ray Cooney on a quartet of later farces (*Not Now Darling*, *My Giddy Aunt*, *Move Over Mrs Markham* and *There Goes The Bride*) before writing seven years of television comedies for Hugh Lloyd and Terry Scott.

"That's really where the money is now, though the farces do go into rep a bit and interestingly, the one that Donald Sinden did, *Not Now Darling*, is constantly being sold around Europe, where they think it must be a classic if a Shakespearean actor did it first. As a result France and Germany and Denmark are now all sending agents over to inspect *Dry Rot* while George Abbot, who's 100, is turning *Not Now Darling* into a musical for New York.

"Brian turned down the idea of this *Dry Rot* revival four times, but I knew he was retiring from Menap at 65 and that with all his energy he'd be unable to stay out of work for long. What's interesting about watching him in the same play (though not of course the same part) 34 years on is to see how he no longer has to do the cartwheels to keep an audience laughing; he can now just raise an eyebrow instead, because the authority is all there.

"Rix has always been a revolutionary farce actor: the Ralph Lynn silly-ass line that went through David Tomlinson to Ian Carmichael and Richard Briers was interrupted by this put-upon North Country lad, who patently came from a quite different kind of background but could still win an audience's sympathy. Not that it's always been plain sailing: when he had the Whitehall he ran a very tight ship, and was always

waiting in the wings to bollock you if you missed a laugh. That's why the farces there all stayed in such good shape for three or four years; but once he moved out of the Whitehall, he began to lose interest in dropping his trousers every night and I think he rather confused his audience at the Garrick by putting on a repertoire of farces instead of just one. National Theatre audiences might accept the idea of a repertoire, but farce audiences got thoroughly muddled.

"What we've got now in *Dry Rot* is a comedy of 1950s manners: if you want to know what England was like just after the war, with clothing coupons and young people who had apparently never heard of sex, then *Dry Rot* will tell you. In one way it's a museum piece, but the three main characters seem to me as timeless as the Three Stooges. The curious thing about farce is that only the British

seem to do it: Americans like Neil Simon or Woody Allen always have to suffer for their laughs, and in Stockholm once I remember one of my translators being horrified that people were falling about at a plot about adultery, which in Sweden is apparently no laughing matter.

"Over here Alan Ayckbourn has gone very dark now, and I have to say that even my next play is rather more serious: perhaps it was easier to be funny about life in the 1950s."

If *Dry Rot* works the second time around, it is likely to bring Chapman away from television and back to the theatre more permanently.

"I don't think so, though I suppose in one's sixties one should never be too sure about anything; the real problem now is that there is no single farce theatre company left in London, and nowhere in the regions to try the plays out and get

them right. It's all changed, and I don't think we'll ever get it back to a climate where the kind of farces I used to write can be properly developed and exploited.

"I don't think even a manager like Brian could ever again find actors willing to devote three or four years of their lives to the same play eight times a week: the whole business has fragmented, there's no continuity. Certainly the farce form still exists — Ray Cooney keeps it going very nicely at the Criterion — but there's no longer that feeling of a permanent company through which you graduate as a player or a playwright. There's no such thing as the Whitehall of the Aldwych in terms of a tradition, and I suppose I was very fortunate to have been in at the end of it."

Dry Rot opens on September 28 at the Lyric after a week of previews

Will the clash of themes replace rows over money as the new orchestral season opens? Richard Morrison reports

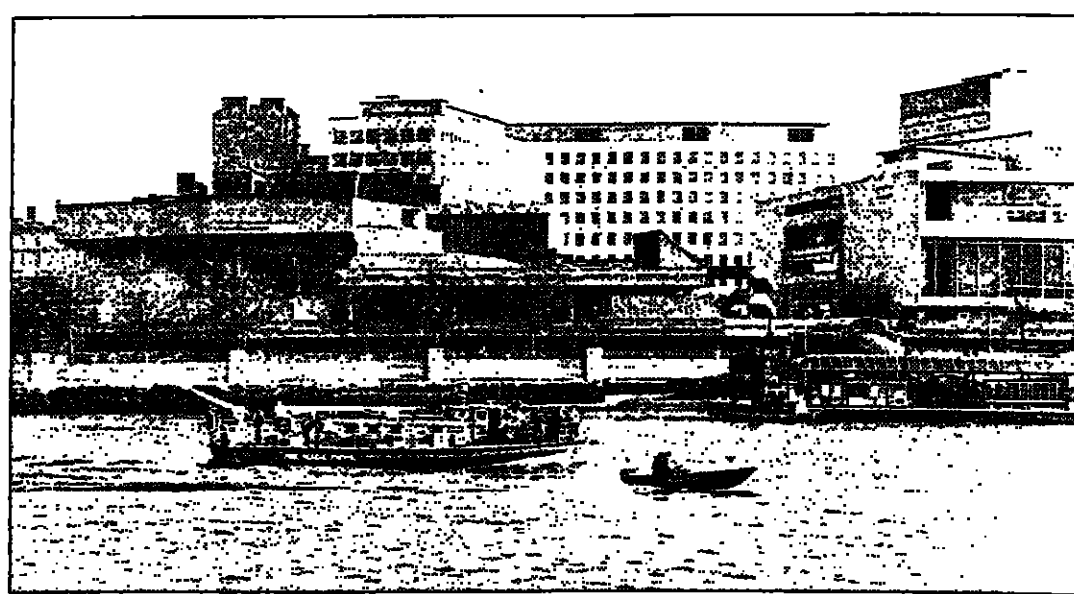
Sound of music on the South Bank

It is, as an American politician might say, a unique moment in history. The South Bank's 1988/89 orchestral season opens tomorrow, and for once the main talking-point is actually artistic content, rather than the financial wrangles, takeovers, writs and interminable strife that have long characterized the London orchestral world. Music administrators are coming dangerously close to thinking about music.

That is perhaps the most impressive achievement so far of the South Bank Board, formed in April 1986 (following the GLC's demise) to run the Festival Hall and its satellite venues. Its director, Nicholas Snowman, has never wavered in his determination to wrench South Bank concerts away from being an endless parade of one-offs, and to channel them instead into "thematic" series. But because major artists are booked years in advance, it is only now that concert-goers need brace themselves for the onslaught of, as the South Bank puts it, "the full range of the centre's artistic aspirations".

Perhaps it would be best to forget some of the try-outs that have been cobbled together in the meantime. "Endgames", for instance — the "late works" series which was hurriedly concocted from events that mostly would have happened anyway — seemed particularly half-baked. Moreover, its prime instigators (Snowman and Sir Peter Hall) appeared unaware that, by announcing that "Endgames" derived from a whimsical chat at a dinner party, they were reinforcing the belief still prevalent among the general public that arts centres are things which are run by, and for, Hampstead dilettantes. With four million tickets to shift each year, the South Bank cannot afford even a whiff of elitism.

Nevertheless, "Endgames" proved that it was possible to gear the whole South Bank — concert halls, theatres, film theatre and



People's palaces: with four million tickets to shift, there can be no whiff of elitism on the South Bank

galleries — to the pursuit of a single artistic idea. It was just that the idea was wrong. Twelve weeks is a long time to sustain public interest in the output, however inspiring, of dying men.

That sort of mega-harnessing of venues will happen again in the spring, when "Revolution and After" celebrates the French Revolution bicentenary in every conceivable art form — even ones that were not invented in 1789. But there is also an imminent deluge of purely musical "themes". The Reluctant Revolutionary offers everything Schoenberg ever wrote, sprawled massively over four months, inspired by the music of his more tuneful contemporaries, and to be sold, presumably, on the basis of the galaxy of stars who have signed on to do their bit (some of whom — Karajan and Tennstedt, for instance — must be counted as very reluctant revolutionaries). Beethoven, Steve Reich, Lutoslawski, Ligeti, Messiaen,

Bartók, Bach — they also get the treatment.

Of course, at the Barbican much the same "thematic" thinking is going on. However, the LSO's festivals there are crucially different, based more on eminent artists who choose their own themes, rather than themes which are then fitted around the available artists. Nevertheless, one of the autumn's largest series, devoted to Shostakovich, links the Barbican and the South Bank in a joint venture for the first time.

Will the themes work? Does the general concert-goer contemplate the prospect of hearing, say, every note that Schoenberg wrote with quite the same enthusiasm as the administrator who devised the series? That remains to be proved. It is apparent, however, that the symphony orchestras — whose support is the cornerstone to all the South Bank's schemes — are regarding them with increasing wariness.

The London orchestras have recently shown a surprising will to put their houses in order. The gibes about Birmingham being better and brighter (under Rattle) hurt the London managements. For the first time in years they began to question whether, even with their tiny public subsidies, they could offer their patrons more adventure. It was belatedly realized, too, that players could earn more money for almost any musical activity than for playing in the orchestras' main concert series; and everyone agreed that more rehearsal time in the Festival Hall might be a good idea. All this was discussed by the Arts Council's working party, set up last year under Robert Ponsonby's chairmanship, and to a certain extent it has been implemented. But there is little doubt that the South Bank's new regime initially gained the co-operation of the orchestras by dangling one very tempting carrot: the prospect that one of them (presumably the

orchestra that jumped most smartly on to the thematic bandwagon) would become the centre's permanent, resident symphony orchestra. That residency bait is no longer on the table, and since its withdrawal the orchestras have toughened their attitude.

They suspect, for instance, that all these multi-venue festivals are enhancing the South Bank's own corporate identity at the expense of their own. Yet each orchestra's survival in the hunt for subscribers depends on intense marketing of its own individuality. So in future, it looks as though the South Bank will be forced to present thematic series on the basis of the forthcoming Bartók series — one theme, one orchestra (LPO), one conductor (Solti) — rather than on the lines of "Beethoven Plus", which uses eight orchestras and 14 other ensembles.

Then there is the economic question. The orchestras point out that, while the South Bank devises all these adventurous ideas, it is they who have to take the big financial gambles. Such inducements as the South Bank can offer, it seems, customarily take the form of reserving extra rehearsal time in the Festival Hall rather than hard cash grants.

Still more sponsorship could be the answer (the South Bank pulled off one spectacular million-pound deal with British & Commonwealth Holdings earlier this year), but the problem with sponsorship remains that of conflicting intentions. One recalls the "Festival of German Arts" on the South Bank a couple of seasons ago: Daimler-Benz poured £600,000 into it and considered it money well spent — in terms of raising its own profile. But in return the South Bank had to mount a lot of exceedingly routine Beethoven and Brahms performances — which did its profile no good whatsoever.

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THE ARTS

Look back in awe at Moore

John Russell Taylor wishes the Royal Academy's memorial show began at the end of a great tradition and moved backwards towards its source

Of course Henry Moore is a towering figure in 20th-century art: nobody seriously doubts that. But he seems to have been a national monument for so long — almost 40 years before his death, indeed — that it is very difficult to look at him with a fresh eye, or feel anything new about him, even confronted with such an elegant and eloquent tribute as the Royal Academy's intended 90th birthday show, which now becomes a memorial (until December 11).

Since you cannot, without offending the orderly minds of the organizers, start at the end and work your way back, the next best thing is no doubt to move purposefully through, making mental notes as you go, and then return steadily and leisurely to the beginning, confident that that way the show will rise inexorably to its proper climax. It does certainly seem that being an institution, almost beyond criticism for nearly half of his long life did not do Moore any more good than it did his critics.

Probably the best possible case for the later works is made here, and the effect of seeing some of the monumental bronzes, like the "Upright Motives" of 1955-56, indoors, even in the grand spaces of the Academy, is quite impressive. But the impression remains throughout that Moore was far more remarkable as a carver (and so mostly before 1945) than he ever was as a modeller, which he predominantly was in later years. Even without some external knowledge of the ways that many of the bronzes were quite arbitrarily edited in various sizes from tabletop to mountaintop (though Moore himself said early on that every sculpture

GALLERY

Henry Moore Royal Academy of Arts

had its own one natural size), it is likely that one would sense some loss of impact and definition, some lack of individual touch in the finishing.

And then there is no doubt that few major artists have got so far with such a small stock of obsessive motifs. The recumbent or semi-recumbent woman, the seated figure, the mother and child account for a surprisingly high proportion of his work, right from the beginning. Later on are added the fallen warrior and the helmets, and the bigger bone forms. But there are whole areas of human experience, most notably sexual love, which are ignored altogether. Though some of the later variations on the stock patterns are still telling, there appears to be no sense of exploration, no creative danger after the Forties, at any rate in the sculpture.

The graphic work is something else again. Some of the most effective variations on the theme of the helmet, for instance, occur in the prints, which are excluded here. But in the drawings, which he produced very regularly, even after he was prevented by his health from working on large sculptures, he never quite ceases from questing. There are extraordinary, almost Turnerian landscape watercolours of mountains and sky, quite unlike anything else in his work, which he did not begin on until 1982.

The drawings of sheep like stones and stones like sheep also introduce a new element, though deriving apparently from a lifetime of devoted sheep-watching. And the drawings based on the spectacle of his daughter bent over her schoolgirl homework, if not so powerful as the famous shelter drawings of the war years, tap the same half-hidden springs of human sympathy.

And still, and yet... for the really thrilling work, the creative faculty at white heat, one always in the end comes back to the carvings of the Twenties and Thirties. Despised and rejected as Moore then was by conservatives (though not quite so completely as he later liked to think), he seems to have worked at the highest intensity with his mind uncluttered by business. At this period he had a few sympathetic commissions, but in the main the only one he had to prove anything to was himself.

The principal outside influence on his style seems to have been Pre-Columbian American, but it is from the start absorbed and used in an entirely individual manner: even at his nearest to Epstein (a proximity he did not later care too much to acknowledge) or, in the stinging figures, Hepworth (where he hotly disputed priority), there is never any real danger of our mistaking him for anyone else.

Where Rodin was clearly one of nature's modellers, Moore was equally naturally and inevitably a carver. Very few sculptors are equally at home in both disciplines, and the evidence provided by this show seems to be that Moore, despite a handful of great bronzes, was no real



Variation on a theme: Helmet Head No 2 from 1950, a favourite Moore motif

exception to the rule. But when, on your backward quest for the source of his creativity, you arrive at the last two or three rooms, you will find sculpture after sculpture which need fear no comparison with anything else in the art of this century.

It has often been said that Moore is the last great figure in a tradition which goes straight back to Michelangelo, and here one is intensely aware of a sunset glow and the shadows gathering.

Though we know that leading figures of the next important generation, such as Anthony Caro and Philip King, served an

apprenticeship in Moore's workshops, little in their work seems passed on from him, and what influence one might detect is entirely by reaction.

If we take a strict Hegelian view of artistic development, we may find that Moore figures as a dead end: we know what he comes from but can see little that he might lead to. And does it matter? Even the greatest traditions have to end somewhere, and Moore's early achievement needs no apology. It seems like quite a minor quibble to wish that this particular tradition ended with the first two rooms of sculpture rather than the last.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Rouble trouble

Lord Gowrie, the chairman of Sotheby's, is off to Russia in the hope of sorting out an embarrassing wrangle over payments from July's £2 million auction in Moscow. Months after receiving Sotheby's cheque, the Soviet Ministry of Culture has still not paid the artists their 60 per cent cut. Last week they met and accused the ministry of "banditry", even threatening to sue. Sergei Popov, a ministry official, further fanned flames by appearing to rat on the artists' "golden rouble" deal, which gives some of their earnings in foreign currency and the rest at a favourable exchange rate. This week Sotheby's was promising that Lord Gowrie would kick any necessary shins if the money remained trapped; the ministry, meanwhile, has left its £568,000 cut safely accruing capitalist interest in a London bank.

And also in Russia... the opening this month of Francis Bacon's painting exhibition, the first by a first-rate living Western artist, may prove an anti-climax. Half the fun was going to be witnessing Russia's reaction to the behaviour of Soho's most famous bohemian: plagued by asthma, however, the 78-year-old artist has decided he is not up to the flight. Although a Bacon nude of John Edwards has been banned from the show because it is "pornographic", champagne will be permitted at the private view.

Saigon blues

Producer Cameron Mackintosh has junked a pre-production album of his blockbuster, *Miss Saigon*, due to open at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane next autumn. Written by the creators of *Les Misérables*, recording of a version of the £2 million musical began in April, with a cast including David Essex, Frances Ruffelle (from the Broadway *Les Mis*), and Laura Brannigan, the American pop



Essex and Mackintosh

singer. Both *Chess* and *Evita* began life on vinyl, and the *Miss Saigon* album was to have been released last month. Instead it has been quietly buried. Officially they say it has been decided to wait for a full cast recording. Unofficially, I understand, no one had enough faith in the record to risk the show's future on it.

Like in the movies

BBC Northern Ireland has a new music and arts consultant. Announcing the appointment, BBC Northern Ireland controller Colin Morris said last week that he hoped Derek Bailey of Landseer Films would help highlight the rich and varied culture of the province so often overshadowed by the gunman. Bailey may well — but only when he has signed a new contract — the first draft was blown to bits by a Belfast street bomb.

Andrew Billen

Texas up on its toes

The Dallas Ballet Company may have danced its last. But, John Percival writes, there is still hope for it — in Denmark

Dallas is not renowned as a centre of culture, but until this month the city did have a ballet company which attracted attention as one of the more enterprising of America's regional troupes, and one of the least influenced by New York.

But that company has just given what are probably its last performances. Officially its activities are merely suspended, but its director, Flemming Flindt, does not foresee anyone restoring the funding which disappeared because of a failure of Texan confidence as oil



Starring partners: Vivi and Flemming Flindt, shaping a new future

Flindt himself made a rare return to the stage in *A Ballroom Fantasy*, as a roudie trying to find a pretty young partner for the waltz but eventually realizing, as in *Fledermaus*, that the older lady in a mask is not only the most beautiful of all but is, in fact, his wife — in life as well as on stage.

The flair of the Flindts in this number, remaining the centre of attention while letting the younger dancers have all the most brilliant steps, shows the difference between a star and a good dancer. But I think that in Sparto they have a future star.

He plays Hippolytus to Vivi Flindt's performance of the title role in *Phaedra*, an hour-long ballet by Flemming Flindt to music by Philip Glass. The subject is an intractable one for ballet, but the two principals seize the opportunities to tear a passion to tatters, with good support from Kenneth Nickel as Theseus and Laura Keller as the nurse.

Beni Montresor's design sets the white-clad dancers against red backgrounds: curtains that lift or sink, and a rectangle on the floor that seems both bed and grave.

There are also two wondrously cloaked figures, some four metres high, who survey the beginning and end like the vengeful gods.

During the curtain calls, many of the women in the company had tears as well as smiles: excited at their reception, desolate at the company's imminent dissolution. But this story may yet have a happy ending — or even two.

For one thing, the Flindts (with a lot of international experience and the backing of a successful school which continues in Dallas) are determined, if at all possible, to make a future for the dancers they have trained. For another, Aarhus is awaiting the passage of a bill through the Danish parliament which would give funds to set up a ballet company there, and it is no secret that it would like Flemming Flindt as artistic director.

Whether those two demands on his future are compatible is less clear. Naturally Aarhus would like to encourage Danish dancers (Sparto, incidentally, falls in that category), and the theatre director there already has some plans drawn up with that purpose. The outlook might be a lot brighter than the present climate in Dallas.

CONCERTS

LSO/Tilson Thomas Barbican Hall

Michael Tilson Thomas's first season with the London Symphony Orchestra opened on Thursday with what sounded like a declaration of intent. The main work was Mahler's Ninth Symphony, which received a tempestuous performance to suggest this is a conductor who means business. To begin, there was a little celebration of recent British music, as a reminder that his business is as much with the living as the dead.

Of course, it is hard to be entirely sanguine about this, given the fiftieth year in which Abbado was able to demonstrate his equal commitment to new and unusual music; but this was a brave start, warmly received.

The new part of the programme began with a two-minute overture by Oliver Knussen, aptly called *Flourish with Fireworks*. Scored for a large orchestra, it was a jolly and brilliant occasional piece.

Robin Holloway's opera on Richardson's *Clarissa*, written 12 years ago, has so far been heard only in the form of a vocal symphony that Simon Rattle conducted in Birmingham. This time we were offered a smaller window into the work, in the form of a

scene for the heroine, sung with great point and skill and interrupted beauty by Anna Steiger. Holloway's dense, vivid and exuberantly expressive orchestra score was also strongly delivered.

The Mahler performance rather made the point, bringing up the gestures of dread and despair with brutal candour. Tilson Thomas provided shock contrasts in the first movement, gallumphing dances in the second and security in the finale, but the most successful movement was the third, with its manic overlapping of banalities and its terrifying failure to let up. The orchestra were with him all the way.

Paul Griffiths

BBC Singers/ London Brass Albert Hall/Radio 3

At first sight this three-part Prom might have seemed appealingly different. For one thing, the performers included two string quartets (playing together) and the BBC Singers, as well as the London Brass Virtuosi, who had a third of the concert to themselves and provided, with six extra woodwind players, the instrumental complement for Bruckner's E minor Mass.

Doubts about the wisdom of the programming, however, set in immediately the brass group

began. They gave lacklustre performances of mainly lacklustre pieces, which included the worst I have heard by Smetana (the exclusively tonic-dominant *Fantasia for Shakespeare's Richard III*) and Sibelius (the dull tone poem *Tiera*, of 1898).

Admittedly, there was a tiny element of intrigue about the Russian composer Victor Ewald's *Brass Quintet*, Op. 5. But this work was still only a regressive piece of trifling salon music, self-evidently the work of an amateur.

If Grieg's moving *Funerar March for Rikard and Nordraak* was markedly more competent, it hardly seemed the right kind of piece with which to end the set. Spirits were soon raised, however, by the Cleveland and Melos Quartets, who came together for Shostakovich's *Two Pieces* of 1924-5 and for Mendelssohn's exuberant *Octet*, incredibly written when its composer was 16.

Physical distance may not have added enchantment, but there was still plenty in the latter work anyway. The outer movements were tough to just the right degree (politic exactitude has no place here), while the filigree *Scherzo* and the gentle explorations of the slow movement were both well gauged. That left the Bruckner, which, in spite of John Poole's ardent direction, sometimes seemed a little wobbly. It was also far too solemn after such joy.

Stephen Pettitt

Our Daley dose

TELEVISION

Among the many things we are not sure about after watching Daley (ITV) last night are: how old is Daley Thompson? Where was he born? What did his parents do? Why did he start running? How did his career develop? How does he feel about his colleagues? What are his hopes for the future? From this you may deduce that this was not a normal sort of documentary, but one very much geared to what happens to Thompson in Seoul.

This could have been a positive

bias if, instead of all the basic information, we had had a revealing study with substantial conversations which showed Thompson's reaction to the work in progress.

Instead we saw a lot of training, more training, saw beautifully filmed slow-motion replays of his decaathlon activities, heard a lot from his coach — far more than from Thompson himself — and got to understand something of the enormous pressure on an athlete to succeed. The pressure is all the greater if, as Thompson did last year at the World Championships in Rome, he happens to fail spectacularly. That set-back, which followed an injury, occurred in the middle of filming, but there was little sense of drama (the accident was narrated baldly over yet more training film).

When Thompson said something it was full of good sense and good fun, and one wanted to see him talking far more. But the programme did him a disservice by trying to take a lofty moral tone over those newspapers which revealed the premature birth of his daughter, while at the same time treating us to an embarrassing family scene and pictures of the said daughter. In fact the portrait that emerged was one of "the most effective competitive animals we've ever seen" (his coach near the start) becoming "not the most motivated guy in the book" (Thompson near the end). The coach did his best to raise our morale as well as Thompson's, but the curious result was to leave a few question marks over the likely outcome in Seoul.

William Holmes

Important auction sale of Napoleonic and Historical Collector's Items on October 8, 1988 at 1.00 p.m. in D-6000 Frankfurt. Hotel Sheraton Airport.

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RECORDS

Masterpieces of Ellingtonia

In 1933, during his first visit to London, Duke Ellington told the *Daily Herald* the story of his plans to compose an extended work expressing "the history of my race... in rhythm", tracing the story of the American negro from Africa through slavery, emancipation and the urban settlements. Then, he said, "I try to go forward a thousand years... to express the future when... the negro takes his place, a free being, among the peoples of the world."

Ten years later, Ellington made his dream come true by performing the suite he called *Black, Brown and Beige* at Carnegie Hall in New York. Running for about an hour, the piece was received by the critics with something less than rapture: from a present-day perspective, we may imagine that the glory of Ellington's early-Forties band, which achieved three-minute miracles of compression in such pieces as "Ko Ko" and "Concerto for Cootie", could have created expectations that were not satisfied by the very different pace and density of the suite.

Again, hindsight suggests that the unfriendly reception may have had a decisive effect on the future development of jazz, casting doubts on the validity in jazz of multi-section extended works that persist in some minds right up to the present day. Even Ellington allowed the criticism to deflect him: after one more performance in Boston a week later he put the suite away for a while, never recorded it in anything resembling its original form, and later cannibalized various sections for other projects.

In 1944, in fact, he recorded a much reduced version, timed at 18 minutes, just short enough to fit on two sides of a 12-inch 78rpm disc, and it is this edition which leads off *Black, Brown and Beige*, subtitled "The 1944-1946 Band Recordings" — a four-LP box with which RCA follows up its triumphant reissue a couple of years ago of earlier material under the title *The Blanton-Webster Band*.

JAZZ

Duke Ellington *Black, Brown and Beige* (RCA Bluebird 6841-1-RB, 4 discs)
 Mercer Ellington *Steppin' into Swing Society* (Affinity AFF 194)
 Fletcher Henderson *Swing* (BBC Jazz Classics JEB 682)
 Gil Evans *Priestess* (Anilles ANCD 8717)
 Gil Evans *Farwell* (Electric Bird K28P6486)

The '44-'46 Ellington orchestra was by no means as star-studded as its immediate predecessor: no Jimmy Blanton, no Ben Webster, no Cootie Williams. But there were still Johnny Hodges, whose alto saxophone glides with incomparable lyricism through *BB&B*'s "Come Sunday", Ray Nance, a burgeoning talent on trumpet and violin (and, in a couple of charming instances, vocals); the key-stone of Harry Carney's baritone saxophone; and, for a while, "Tricky Sam" Nanton's astonishing trombone.

BB&B does not, perhaps, satisfy the formulae of a symphony: it is a sequence of linked movements rather than a single piece of interwoven fabric. But how well Ellington fulfilled his intention to express the past and present conditions of his people, and to evoke a terribly moving optimism that all the pain and struggle would culminate in acceptance as full members of the great society. The heavy tread of "Work Song", the urbane lament of "The Blues", and the teeming bustle of "West Indian Dance" are masterpieces of Ellingtonia.

Elsewhere, the box is strong on lightweight pieces, often with attractive singing by Al Hibbler and Joya Sherrill, but also includes such gems as an entrancing dissonant revision of "Mood Indigo", featuring Al Sears' understated tenor saxophone; a charming Hodges vehicle called "Rockabye River"; and a muscular gospel-inflected piece, "A Gathering in the Clearing", which finds Cat Anderson in the growl-

trumpet role established by Bubba Miley and Cootie Williams. There are also versions of three famous W.C. Handy compositions — "Beale Street Blues", "Memphis Blues" and "St. Louis Blues" — and the charming *Farwell Suite*, which includes a fascinating experiment with tonality called "Strange Feeling". All this, plus versions of many other Ellington favourites, fully annotated and illustrated, makes an impressive package.

To grow up in the shadow of such a man must be an awful destiny, but Mercer Ellington has always tried to make the best of it. He did, after all, contribute to the band several compositions — notably "Things Ain't What They Used to Be", "Jumpin' Punkins" and "Blue Serge" — so distinguished that they are often taken for his father's own work. Stepping into *Swing Society* finds Mercer taking the reins of what is basically Duke's 1958-59 band, with Ben Webster making a guest return in place of Paul Gonsalves, and is a solid, professional affair with several outstanding solo contributions, although the balance of the rhythm section is sometimes upset — as in "Raint", Webster's ballad feature — by over-emphatic guitar parts.

One of Ellington's great competitors in the early years is celebrated in the latest issue from Robert Parker's "Jazz Classics in Digital Stereo" series. *Swing* features cleaned-up versions of 16 tracks from Fletcher Henderson's orchestras of 1929-1937 — in other words, immediately after the road accident in which the great arranger and bandleader suffered a head injury that some said initiated his gradual descent into obscurity.

There is plenty of life here, though, in energetic and often kaleidoscopically detailed arrangements featuring soloists of the stature of the trumpeters Rex Stewart, Red Allen and Roy Eldridge, the trombonists J.C. Higginbotham and Jimmy Harrison, and the saxophonists Cole-



man Hawkins, Russell Procope and — again — Webster.

Even Parker's technical prowess cannot do much to clear the murky depths of the extraordinary 1932 "New King Porter Stomp", a piece foreshadowing many of Charles Mingus's tactics, but most of the other tracks — which include "Shanghai Shuffle", "Clarinet Marmalade" and "Underneath the Harlem Moon" — come up fresh and sparkling, their vitality rekindled for new generations of admirers.

Gil Evans was among the few bandleaders capable of creating a new orchestral language for jazz from the legacy of Ellington and Henderson; now two memorial issues rather poignantly chart the artistic decline that took place over the decade before his death earlier this year.

Priestess, a reissue, documents a concert in a New York church which was the only performance he gave in the whole of 1977. By this time he was well into his rock-influenced phase, but the four

compositions (including a 19-minute version of Billy Harper's "Priestess") and their featured soloists (principally the saxophonists Arthur Blythe, David Sanborn and George Adams) are guided by the master's hand.

Sadly, by 1986 and the New York Jazz Club performance captured on *Farwell*, that hand had all but lost its touch. The string-of-solos routine, combined with over-emphatic rhythm sections, had led the music to degenerate into nothing more than rather

garish blowing sessions. The distance in method between, say, the classic "La Nevada" of 1961 and "Let the Juice Loose" of 1986 may not be great, but the aesthetic gulf is vast.

There is plenty of material from his fruitful years to remind us of his genius; it would be a tragedy if a plethora of releases from this unsatisfactory final period were to distort our view of his immense gift to jazz.

Richard Williams

Journeys for the collector's heart

RECITAL

Schubert *Die schöne Müllerin*. Prey/Hokanson (Philips CD 422 241-2)
 Schubert *Winterreise*. Prey/Sawallisch (422 242-2)
 Schubert *Schwanengesang*. Prey/Moore (422 243-2)
 Loewe *Balladen*. Prey/Engel (422 244-2)
 Strauss: 20 *Lieder*. Prey/Sawallisch (422 245-2)

Hermann Prey has spent most of his singing life being listened to as an alternative to Fischer-Dieskau; and now the record companies and festivals of Europe are focusing attention on the new generation of German baritones. Olaf Baer, Robert Holl and Andreas Schmidt among them. As Prey approaches his 60th year, it is good to be presented with a harvest, on CD, of some of his classic performances, and to be reminded of their own distinctive character.

Even when he was nearer the age of Schubert's own *Schöne Müllerin*, Prey's voice was never ideally suited to this green, youthful cycle. But in 1971 the tendency for his light and its darker shadows to drag in the millstream and over-emphasize the first beat of each bar is over-ridden by long, curving lines of tender legato, and a lively response to every ardent exclamation mark. This *Schöne Müllerin*, tinged by a characteristic vein of melancholy in Prey's voice, reveals a fine combination of vivid communication and intense *Intimität* — that "innerness" which fuses the conscious and unconscious expression of emotion which is at the core of this early work.

The *Winterreise*, recorded at the same time, is the central one of Prey's three recordings of the work, and with Wolfgang Sawallisch's minutely sentient accompanying, by far the most successful. It is a low-profile, finely scaled performance, which takes long, repeated listening to yield its equally long-prepared insights.

Prey's own temperament focuses instinctively on the retrospective qualities of this journey of the heart. There is more anger than *Angst*, more sense of resignation than of the raw nerve-endings uncovered by the music's biting accents and anxious repetitions. Sawallisch, though, constantly redresses the balance, sharpening the performance with detail which also artfully points just how well this cycle lies for Prey's voice.

It is Gerald Moore's partnership, too, which distinguishes the 1971 *Schwanengesang*. Again, the ear is drawn to the preponderance of words like "Sehnsucht" (longing) and "Tränen" (tears). Prey

can get a little bogged down in the conception of these "Swansongs" as a valedictory group; Schubert never intended them as such. But the voice is in its prime, strong and resilient enough to carry the full weight of the world's sorrows on the shoulders of "Der Atlas", and to sustain a moving intensity of half voice for the long, echoing lines of "In der Ferne".

Karl Engel takes over at the keyboard for two Goethe songs which fill out the playing time, "Der Fischer" and "Erkönig". These addenda hardly show Prey at his best; it is, revealingly, Loewe's "Erkönig", which really gets him going. These 10 ballads, by Schubert's senior who out-lived him by many years, bring out the very best in Prey. Suddenly the voice is freed from the conscientiousness and sense of deep reverence which at times dulls its surface. Prey leaps to the challenge of the more episodic narratives of this Erl King, while the tale of Tom the Rhymer and the tongue



In classic voice: Hermann Prey

twisting merriment of the Wedding Song take years off him. For Richard Strauss, it is the skill with which Prey moulds each of the 20 songs to his own vocal temperament and timbre which sets them apart. There is the occasional moment of strain at the crest of a phrase; but the bloom of "Die Nacht", the unforced gentleness of "Zueignung", the robust energy of "Ich liebe dich", make this a recital which any Prey collector will cherish. It is worth pointing out that these re-issues are released very much with the dedicated collector in mind: they are German imports and, as such, carry no translation of either lyrics or texts.

Hilary Finch

Base metal no longer

ROCK

Bon Jovi *New Jersey* (Vertigo VERH 62)
 Anthrax *State of Euphoria* (Megaforce Worldwide/Island ILPS 9816)
 Metallica... *And Justice for All* (Vertigo 836062-2)

In 1986 heavy rock found its answer to the Beatles. Although acts like Iron Maiden, Def Leppard and Van Halen had previously shipped albums in prodigious quantities, especially in America, Bon Jovi, a five-piece from New Jersey named after its singer Jon Bon Jovi, was the first bona fide metal group to enjoy blanket crossover success. Its needle shot off the graph two years ago with the release of the album *Slippery When Wet*. A series of singles taken from it sailed to the top of the charts worldwide, greasing the way for a staggering tally of 14 million album sales.

The follow-up to that landmark release is *New Jersey*, and while one could hardly describe it as anything different or new, it is at least as good as anything the group has done before. Musically, it is a good-natured compendium of chunky, power-chord riffs, squealing, rapid-fire guitar solos and high pitched singing similar to that of most vocalists who favour those uncomfortable-looking tight, striped trousers.

What sets it apart from the competition is the group's uncommon facility with a melody. One of its nearest tricks is to hit the listener with a catchy sequence that sounds like a great chorus, immediately before going into the real chorus. The appeal is further enhanced on *New Jersey* by a clearly discernible Springsteen influence, particularly on songs like "Born to be my Baby" and "Wild is the Wind".

The essence of the album is to be found in "Blood on Blood", the sort of rousing, anthemic song about male adolescence which Bryan Adams pulled off with definitive panache on his "Summer of '69". It is easy to be patronizing about a band which sums up in such explicit clichés the romantic notion of young lads running free, but this album has been diligently assembled and there is no denying the continuing power of such music to affect and inspire successive generations of youth.

At around the same time that Bon Jovi was demonstrating that heavy metal could be fashioned into high quality pop, darker forces were at work on the other wing of the genre. Here lurked the hard cases who came on stage like superhuman, axe-wielding psychopaths, and whose goal remained the production of ever more extreme songs about medieval torturers and imminent global destruction. In their search for the ultimate



Thinking fan's thrash: Anthrax delivers another thundering attack

power chord, these new wild men of rock picked up the punk-minimalist idea that the faster they played the better the chances of reaching Nirvana. Thus was born thrash or speed metal, an unholy, numbing noise revered for its unequivocally primeval qualities. The leaders in the field, *Metallica* and *Anthrax*, attracted a vast international cult following, and now enjoy regular hit singles (but are rarely seen on *Top of the Pops*). *Metallica*'s last album, *Master of Puppets*, was a million-seller.

Despite their ragged, fierce personae, the musicians revealed themselves when offstage to be ordinary, long-haired lads, usually with no greater history of psychological disorder than those of their fans. And on closer inspection it may be seen that, as celebrations of chaos go, thrash metal is in fact a streamlined and highly disciplined affair.

Anthrax has long challenged the notion that thrash is necessarily for boneheads, and on *State of Euphoria* the lyrical die is frequently cast in favour of the thinking-fan. "Make Me Laugh" takes a heavy-handed swipe at TV evangelists, while "Who Cares Wins" is a plea on behalf of the urban homeless. Nevertheless the group remains in thrall to the work of horror-fantasy writer Stephen King, and a customary homage is paid with the grimly morbid "Misery Loves Company", a song that ends with the repeated chant "I'll kill you, I'll kill you, I'll kill you".

Despite opening to the uncharacteristic strains of a lone

cello, the album is quickly thundering along at an outlandish speed, an Armageddon mix of battered tom-toms, dive-bombing guitars and screeched vocals, an epic attack that combines the guitar sound of early Black Sabbath with the energy of the Ramones.

Apart from the cello, exactly the same description applies to *Metallica*'s double album... *And Justice for All*. But there is evidence here that the speed-obsessed, San Francisco *idiots savants*, who were once the undisputed masters of this form, are beginning to soften up. For in among the hurrying overkill which predominates, there is the odd, gently melodic passage, even one or two reflective moments of sub-Wishbone Ash twin lead guitar. At times it seems as if they may be learning how to cope with conventional song structures, while at other points the lengthy arrangements take on some hideously complex structures.

Stark, exciting and unremitting, speed metal has become absorbed into and reflects the strange, exclusive tribal rituals of a certain section of rebelliously minded youth. There are elements of the thrash ethic to be found in computer spaceship games, video pasties, horror comics, and the junk cultures that surround motor-biking and skateboarding, all thrill-based activities where short, sharp shocks prompt a generous flow of adrenaline. What it all means, of course, is anybody's guess.

David Sinclair

Lively sounds, teeming ideas

CLASSICAL

Dvorák *Piano Quartets*. Domus (Hyperion CDA 66287)
 Osostowicz/Tomes *Fauré Violin Sonatas*. Osostowicz/Tomes (Hyperion CDA 66277)
 Dowland *Lachrimae*. Hespion XX (Astrée E 8701)

Two releases of chamber music from the Hyperion label offer a chance to appraise the quality of the playing of younger British musicians. The group Domus follows its award-winning issue of Fauré's *Piano Quartets* on Hyperion last year with a splendid disc of Dvorák's two *Piano Quartets*, Opus 23 in D and Opus 87 in E flat. There is a "live" quality to their performances of these works, which neatly serve to illustrate the differences between Dvorák the rising star and Dvorák the established composer.

The later work, the E flat major, is the more complex, its passions lying deeper and its scoring showing greater resourcefulness. It also has a real gem of a cello tune in its slow movement, played here with exquisite beauty by Richard Lester. The younger Dvorák brilliance is amply illustrated by the D major quartet, the first movement of which lasts a quarter of an hour, teems with ideas, yet still somehow seems terse.

These lovely performances are

marked by a feeling of four intelligent minds meeting at a common point of mutual enlightenment.

Krysia Osostowicz and Susan Tomes, Domus's violinist and pianist, complement this disc with one containing both of Fauré's Violin Sonatas, works separated by an even larger chronological and stylistic gap than are the Dvorák Quartets. The A major, Op 13, is a product of the mid 1870s, while the E minor, Op 108, comes from four decades later, as is obvious from its obtrusely expressionistic manner, an ear- and mind-opener.

Osostowicz (here playing a gorgeously mellow instrument by Matteo Goffriller) and Tomes are sensible enough not to let the sweeter earlier work descend into heavy sentimentality.

The viol consort Hespion XX's eloquent disc of John Dowland's 1604 *Lachrimae* moves in a different way. For those unable to bear an unbroken succession of seven sad Pavans, as published, Hespion XX respects performance traditions, interpolating seven Galliards that appear later in the collection and cleverly using the remaining pieces to work towards an upbeat conclusion of Almonds.

Stephen Pettitt

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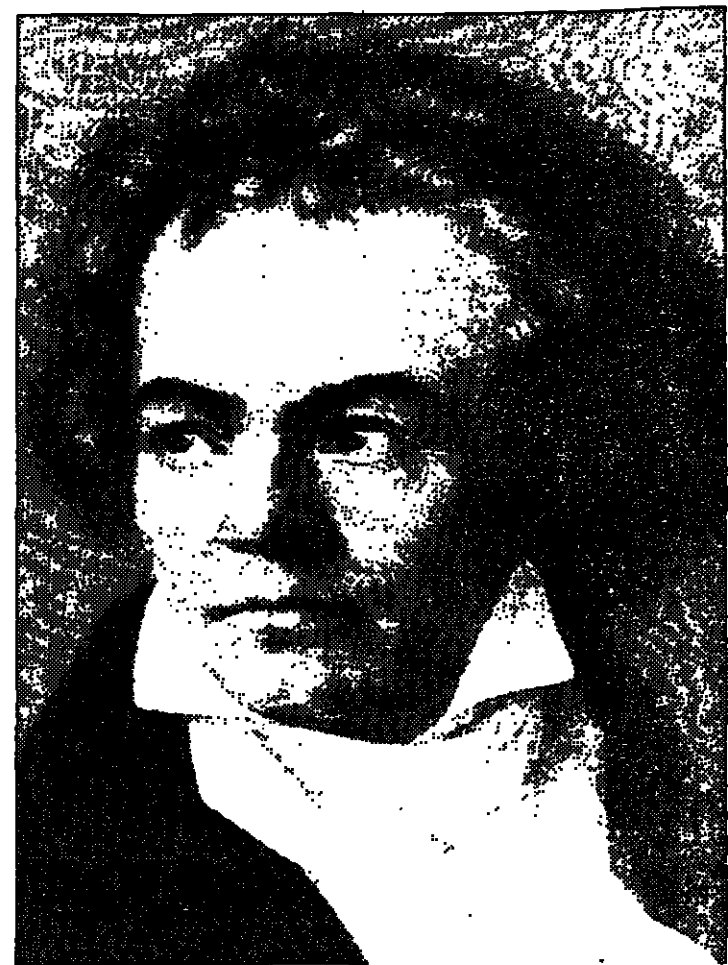
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MASTERWORKS

THE WEEK AHEAD

Beethoven in context



The coming London music season will be marked by several large concert series, including tributes to Schubert and Shostakovich. The first of them, "Beethoven Plus", begins on the South Bank tomorrow with a performance of the Eighth Symphony by the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Klaus Tennstedt and continues until December. As he is a central figure in our musical life, it might be argued that Beethoven has no need of a festival of this kind. But the idea is to show him in the context of his own time, his music will be heard along with that of 34 other composers whose lives overlapped with his. Some will be as familiar as Haydn and Mozart, some as obscure as Eberl or Wranitzky. Yet besides such pieces as a Hummel piano concerto, a Cherubini mass and a concert performance of Spontini's *La Vestale*, we shall hear the usual Beethoven masterworks — all the symphonies in performances ranging from "authentic" to modern, all the piano concertos with Murray Perahia as soloist, all the string quartets from the Alban Berg Quartet. Not only will Kurt Masur conduct concert performances of *Fidelio* but Roger Norrington will conduct *Leonore*, the original version. There are lunchtime recitals, lectures, and an exhibition, "Crossroads Vienna", in the foyer of the Royal Festival Hall, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (01-928 3191, or 01-928 8800), from tomorrow. *Max Harrison*

THE RUNNING MAN (18): Shallow futuristic thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger as an escaped prisoner forced to appear on a gladiatorial TV game show. Directed by Paul Michael Glazer. Odeon West End (01-930 6111), from Fri.

STARS AND BARS (15): Daniel Day-Lewis stars as a hapless British art expert in America. Awkward satirical comedy from William Boyd's novel, directed by Pat O'Connor, with Harry Dean Stanton. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

FILMS ON TV

RIDE LONESOME (1959): Randolph Scott as a bounty hunter on the trail of a killer in Budd Boetticher's fine, spare Western. BBC2, Tues, 6-7.10pm.

THE FRONT (1976): Woody Allen and Zero Mostel in Martin Ritt's sharp-edged comedy about blacklisting in American television in the 1950s. Channel 4, Wed, 9.45-11.30pm.

WAY OUT WEST (1937): Joyous Western spoof from Laurel and Hardy, including their classic rendition of "On the Trail of the Lonesome Pine". BBC2, Fri, 6-7pm.

GALLERIES

THE WEDDING: A collection of historical and contemporary paintings and artefacts which look at courtship and marriage. Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield (0742 726261). From today.

ART AT THE EDGE: Contemporary art from Poland. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (0865 728608). From Sun.

MABEL LUCIE ATTWELL (1878-1964): Original paintings by the children's artist and book illustrator. Chris Beetles, London W1 (01-839 7551). From Wed.

A NEXT OF NIGHTINGALES: The 18th Century artistic world examined in portraits of the musical Linley family by Thomas Gainsborough. Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21 (01-893 5254). From Wed.

CHINESE BRONZES: Finely decorated vessels and weapons dating from 1700 to 2000BC. Sainsbury Centre For The Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 592833). From Tues.

PHOTOGRAPHY

GEORGE RODGER — A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNALS: One of Great Britain's foremost photo-journalists who helped in the founding of the legendary agency, Magnum.

Glasgow Arts Centre, 12 Washington St, Glasgow (041 221 4526).

THE WHEEL OF LIFE: Work from two women photographers, Ann Noggle — portraits concentrating on the elderly — and Sue Packer whose current series, *Baby* Sittings, continues her formal and direct approach to portraiture. The Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport St, London WC2 (01-831 1772).

RADIO

IN KILVERT COUNTRY: June Knox-Mawer visits the Welsh borders in the footsteps of the Rev Francis Kilvert, whose classic diary was first published 50 years ago. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

WILKO'S WEEKLY: Tony Wilkinson sets off on another journey round Britain's local newspapers, starting with the *Warrington Guardian*. Radio 4, Fri, 4.05-4.30pm.

TELEVISION

ENGLAND'S HENRY MOORE: Irreverent and unconventional profile of the great sculptor, which is also a social documentary of England in the 20th century. Channel 4, Wed, 8.30-9.45pm.



IN FROM THE COLD: Tony Palmer's two-hour portrait of Richard Burton (above), an illuminating collage of clips and interviews, sympathetic and ultimately moving. ITV, Tues, 9-10pm and 10.35-11.50pm.

A GENTLEMAN'S CLUB: William Gaurant and Richard Vernon try to preserve one of the last bastions of male chauvinism in a comedy series by Richard Gordon of the "Doctor" books. BBC2, Fri, 9-9.25pm.

Theatre: Tony Patrick: *Films* Geoff Brown: *Concerts* Max Harrison: *Opera* Hilary Finch: *Cave* David: *Dance* John Percival: *Galleries* David Lee: *Photography* Mike Young: *Television* Radio and Films on TV: *Peter Waymark*.

THEATRE LONDON

THE PUBLIC: Gerard Murphy leads in the premiere production of Henry Livingstone's translation of Federico Garcia Lorca's most notorious play, with an overtly homosexual theme. Directed and designed by Uitz. Theatre Royal, Stratford East, E15 (01-534 0310). Previews from Mon. Opens Sept 26.

THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke repeat their roles as Holmes and Watson from Granada TV's series in a new mystery play by Jeremy Paul, directed by Patrick Garland. Wyndham's (01-867 1118). Previews Tues, Wed. Opens Thurs.

THE SNEEZE: Rowan Atkinson, Timothy West, Cheryl Campbell, directed by Ronald Eyre in Michael Frayn's stage adaptation of one Chekhov short stories and one-act plays, presented together as an entertainment under the title of one of the stories. Aldwych (01-836 6404/0641). Previews from Wed. Opens Sept 27.

OUT OF TOWN

BEDFORD: A Midsummer Night's Dream/The Beaux' Stratagem: RSC start a 17-week regional tour, sponsored by BT, with a company

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

POLOSIS (a) Fallacious or general greyness or fallacy of the mind, especially if premature, from the Greek *polos* grey. "Polosis is definitely hereditary, and is due to complete lack of pigment function."

DISQUIPARANT (a) Having a different sense from one's own, one of two concepts which are heterogeneous, i.e. denoted by different names, as father and son, from the medieval Latin *dis* + *aequiparant*: "A social class disparant to her own."

CHURRY (a) A Hindu period of 24 minutes, an Anglo-Indian hour, measured by a clepsydra, consisting of a floating cup with a small hole in it, adjusted so that it fills and sinks in a fixed time, i.e. 24 minutes; also the group which is struck to indicate that the cup has sunk and time has passed.

PERICOPE (a) A passage from the scriptures, especially one appointed to be read in the Church services. The use of such pericopes or prescribed sections in the Eucharist dates from the 4th and 5th centuries. Before that in both East and West the passages were selected at choice by the officiating clergy, allowing scope for mischief and bias in homilies.

CONCERTS

LAST FROM: The closing night of the 94th season finds Andrew Davis and the BBC SO with Parry's *Jerusalem*, Arne's *Rule, Britannia!*, *Drake's Drum* by Stanford, *Shepherd's Hey* by Grainger, Wood's *Fantasia on British Sea Songs*, and, rather surprisingly, Strauss's *Don Juan*. Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, or 01-579 4444). Today, 7.30pm.

TILSON THOMAS TIME: The LSO's new chief conductor, Michael Tilson Thomas, takes them through Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*, Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*, and in Prokofiev's little-known *Piano Concerto No 2* the soloist is Vladimir Feltsman. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PERAHIA PLAYS: As another contribution to "Beethoven Plus" Murray Perahia solos in Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos 1 and 3 with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Sir Neville Marriner. Royal Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* brings Jane Glover to the Covent Garden pit making her Royal Opera conducting debut. First night tonight, then on Tues and Sat Sept 24 at 7.30pm. *Turandot* continues on Mon and Thurs also at 7.30pm, conducted by Edward Downes. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's *La Traviata* tonight, Tues and Fri 7.30pm. *Die Walküre* on Wed and Sat, conducted by Helen Field and Arthur Davies. Jonathan Miller's *Tosca* continues on Mon and Thurs at

8pm, and Pountney's *Carmen* on Wed and Sat Sept 24 at 7pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-536 3161).

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: Peter Stein's highly-acclaimed *Faustfall* (due to arrive in London in October), plays on Thurs at 7.15pm. Donald Maxwell, Suzanne Murphy and Cynthia Buchan lead a cast conducted by Richard Armstrong. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844).

DANCE

MICHAEL CLARK: His new show, *I Am Curious, Orange*, arrives in London from the Amsterdam and Edinburgh Festivals: more concentration on dance than lately; music played on stage by The Fall. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) Tues-Oct 8.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY: Works by choreographers from founder Robert Cohan to newcomer Aletta Collins open a new tour.

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 229771) Wed-Sept 24.

ROCK

BILL WITHERS: Cheerful soul coder from Slab Fork, West Virginia, back in the chart with his Seventies hit, "Lovely Day". Tonight and tomorrow. Hammerstein, Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

MICHELLE SHOCKED: Best of the new breed of protest singers. Thurs, Elekter, Bristol (0272 288514); Fri, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (061 228 1658).

JAZZ

HAROLD NICHOLAS: A fortnight's residency from the veteran hooper of the Cotton Club era. Pizza On The Park, London SW1 (01-236 5550) Mon-Sat.

SHEILA JORDAN: The renowned American vocalist appears with

Peter Ind (bass), John Pearce (piano). Bass Cief, London N1 (01-729 2476) Sun to Thurs.

DARLINGTON JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL: Seven concerts over the next month, commencing with the Merchant-Jury Quartet. The Arts Centre, Darlington (0325 483168) Thurs.

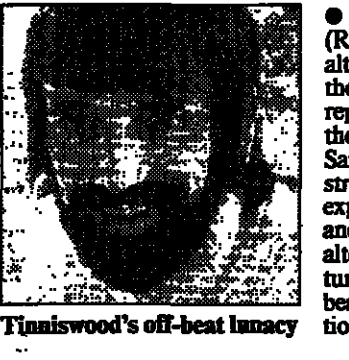
FILMS

PATHFINDER (15): Visually spectacular Norwegian drama based on the legendary exploits of a young nomad who lures marauding warriors to their death. Directed by Nils Gaup. Cannon Shaftesbury Ave (01-836 6279), from Fri.

THE DECEIVERS (15): John Masters' novel about British colonialists in India faced with the murderous Thuggee cult, excitingly filmed by the Merchant-Jury company. Directed by Nicholas Meyer, with Pierce Brosnan. Odeon Haymarket (01-833 7697), from Fri.

SATURDAY RADIO SUNDAY

Compiled by Jane Rackham



Tinniswood's off-beat lunacy

● Tinniswood's Olympics (Radio 4, 10.15pm) is both an alternative to Seoul — Coc, as the BBC's wild card entry, represents the *Radio Times* in the 4 x 400m relay, and Tessa Sanderson suffers from sunstroke brought on by over-exposure to TV studio lights — and an alternative to the alternative (the Witney Scrum Olympics in which G.B. beats France in the Desecration of the Countryside event

CHOICE

by building 70 nuclear power stations and 7,000 executive Georgian-style homes). Peter Tinniswood's attempts to reconcile the alternatives is interrupted by news flashes from Seoul about the Brigade of Gurkhas going on full alert after a small white spot, originally on Coe's left thumb, transfers itself to Daley

Peter Davalle

Thompson's forehead, and David Coleman getting a severe attack of the Desmond Lynam. *Tinniswood's Olympics* is high-quality lunacy. Today's other off-beat Olympics programme is deadly serious but not deadly dull — Zbigniew Turk's Olympic Symphony (Radio 3, 10.55pm). A gold medal winner, but not for frequency of performance.

McKenzie's beautiful delivery

● Faced with an embarrassment of riches, Anne Harvey has acted wisely in compiling a prose and poetry collection, *Sons and Mothers* (Radio 4, 8.00pm), that not only has a chronological shape to it — it progresses from babyhood to bereavement — but also touches on practically every emotion that can arise from this simplest yet most complex of relationships. In these items by, *inter alia*, Laurie

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Lee, D.H. Lawrence, Brian Pattern and Vernon Scannell, are the birth pangs, first cry and first suckling; the unspoken questions and answers that can pass between new mother and child; the tricky stage where "won't" must yield to "must"; the trauma of the first schoolyard; the imperceptible change (for the

worse) of character in adolescence; the day that one woman's son becomes another woman's lover; the dismissal of a mother by her son to an old people's home; the gold ring that survives the crematorium flames. The words are beautifully delivered by Roger Rees and Virginia McKenna, and are matched to perfection by Iain Kendell's music.

P.D.

Radio 1

VHF Stereo and MW (medium wave) News on the half-hour until 12.30pm, then at 2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30 and 12.00. 6.00 Nicky Campbell 6.00 Peter Powell 10.00 Mike Read 1.00 Adrian Jaffe 2.00 The Stereo Sequence 3.00 News Summary 3.01 Adrian Jaffe 4.00 The Stereo Sequence 4.01 News Summary 4.02 Adrian Jaffe 5.00 The Stereo Sequence 5.01 News Summary 5.02 Adrian Jaffe 6.00 The Stereo Sequence 6.01 News Summary 6.02 Adrian Jaffe 7.00 The Stereo Sequence 7.01 News Summary 7.02 Adrian Jaffe 8.00 The Stereo Sequence 8.01 News Summary 8.02 Adrian Jaffe 9.00 The Stereo Sequence 9.01 News Summary 9.02 Adrian Jaffe 10.00 The Stereo Sequence 10.01 News Summary 10.02 Adrian Jaffe 11.00 The Stereo Sequence 11.01 News Summary 11.02 Adrian Jaffe 12.00 The Stereo Sequence 12.01 News Summary 12.02 Adrian Jaffe

Radio 2

VHF Stereo (except 1.00pm-2.30pm) and MW (medium wave) News on the hour until 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 6.00, 7.00 and hourly from 10.00. 6.00 Dave Bussey 6.00 Graham Knight 6.05 David Jacobs 7.00 Sounds of the Sixties with Peter Noone 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gerald Harper 1.00 Wise on the Wireless (Erie Wile) 1.15 News 2.00 Sports 2.01 News 2.02 Sports 2.03 News 2.04 Sports 2.05 News 2.06 Sports 2.07 News 2.08 Sports 2.09 News 2.10 Sports 2.11 News 2.12 Sports 2.13 News 2.14 Sports 2.15 News 2.16 Sports 2.17 News 2.18 Sports 2.19 News 2.20 Sports 2.21 News 2.22 Sports 2.23 News 2.24 Sports 2.25 News 2.26 Sports 2.27 News 2.28 Sports 2.29 News 2.30 Sports 2.31 News 2.32 Sports 2.33 News 2.34 Sports 2.35 News 2.36 Sports 2.37 News 2.38 Sports 2.39 News 2.40 Sports 2.41 News 2.42 Sports 2.43 News 2.44 Sports 2.45 News 2.46 Sports 2.47 News 2.48 Sports 2.49 News 2.50 Sports 2.51 News 2.52 Sports 2.53 News 2.54 Sports 2.55 News 2.56 Sports 2.57 News 2.58 Sports 2.59 News 2.60 Sports 2.61 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BOOKS

The hunt for the hunter

Victoria Glendinning
looks at the trials
of a biographer

In Search of J.D. Salinger by Ian Hamilton (Cape, £12.95)

At what point does decent curiosity become indecent? Four years ago Ian Hamilton undertook to write a biography of J.D. Salinger, author of *The Catcher in the Rye*. That book took nearly a decade after its publication in 1951 to become a cult, but today a quarter of a million copies worldwide are still sold annually. Hamilton, as a teenager in the 1950s, was one of the millions who have felt that its adolescent narrator, Holden Caulfield, spoke for him. He was infatuated, and it was as a grateful fan that he began his researches. His infatuation has not survived the experience.

Salinger, though apparently still writing, has published nothing since his last *New Yorker* story in 1965. He is intolerant of criticism, and famous for not wanting to be famous. He lives as a recluse behind high fences in rural New Hampshire, and hasn't given an interview since 1953.

His manoeuvres to block Hamilton's book have resulted in massive publicity for both subject and biographer and since the United States Court of Appeals reversed an earlier judgment in Hamilton's favour, in doubts as to whether the "fair use" of quotation from unpublished material, or even paraphrase, is now legal. Copyright law may never be the same again. Publishers are jittery. More important are the uneasy moral questions the case raises about invasion of privacy, and about censorship.

Hamilton knew from the first that Salinger did not want to be written about, so planned his book as the story of a quest, with Salinger as the quarry. His own rebuffs and triumphs were to be part of the story; in the event, the half-hearted hunter became the prey.

Hamilton is semi-detached both from his material and from the self who is writing, to the extent that he divides himself in two: an ironic, sceptical "me" sardonically observes his other self, the conscientious biographer, who piles up facts and file-cards, and cautiously pieces together the nervous and respectful critical biography that this might be were it not for Salinger's litigiousness. The author's double identity mirrors

Salinger's, who, it appears, played the roles of eager conformist and sardonic rebel simultaneously in his youth, just as in his short stories he is both Seymour and Buddy Glass, and in his maturity both saintly guru and beady-eyed careerist. Hamilton's "constant companion" as he calls his own alter ego, has his dull and decent say. Punctuated by phrases such as "it would seem", "very likely", and many a "possibly" and "probably", the thin and conjectural story of Salinger's life before 1965 takes shape.

There is nothing shocking in it. Salinger was born in 1919, the son of a prosperous New York cheese importer. He was sent to a military boarding school, spent a few months in Europe learning the ham business, and attended a small liberal arts college. His literary ambitions were sophisticated and metropolitan, and he profited by the healthy market for short stories in the magazines of the 1930s and 1940s. He was drafted in the Second World War, took part in the Utah Beach landings, and was present at the liberation of Paris. Even in the army, he never stopped writing. After a brief, disastrous marriage to a French girl, whom he had only known for a few weeks, he underwent some kind of breakdown, but soon emerged as a new star in *The New Yorker*.

He made a second marriage, and found some inner solace in the cultivation of childlike Zen mysticism, with which Hamilton has very little patience. Norman Mailer has called Salinger "the greatest mind ever to stay in prep school", and Hamilton does not seem to disagree. One of Salinger's charges was that Hamilton had used his literary property — his unpublished letters — to flesh out an

otherwise uninteresting biography. That is a patent truth that might make any biographer wince. But nothing succeeds like failure.

Hamilton, knowing of Salinger's initial distaste for his project, had set himself some tough, even crippling, ground rules. He was interested in the man who produced the work, not in rooting out personal intimacies. He did not approach Salinger's former wife, nor his family; he did not badger Salinger's friends if they did not respond well to his overtures; he did not try to hear his prey in his lair. He did, however, milk the memories and the files of less scrupulous scribblers who, over the years, had interviewed indiscreet acquaintances or laid siege to the fenced-in house in New Hampshire.

He also found four caches of unpublished Salinger letters. These are what caused all the trouble. If there are any famous persons reading this who are thinking of forbidding would-be biographers to make direct quotation from letters, let them think again. With direct quotation, the subject speaks for himself; it is up to the reader to draw his own conclusions. Hamilton, when his book was already in proof, found himself prohibited from both quotation and paraphrase. Rewriting, he could do nothing but characterize the correspondences.

His comments are not flattering to Salinger. Twenty years of letters to Whit Burnett, editor of *Story* magazine and his mentor in the craft of writing, are described as garrulous and self-promoting, offering nothing in the way of human warmth. A set of letters to a girlfriend, found in Texas, are "perforated", "silly and cocksure, reflecting a 'stereotypically unappealing'".

Salinger and Hamilton have never met. Like lovers, they have largely invented one another. The lawyers did all the hand-to-hand fighting. Any biography is to some extent a fiction, and this one more than many. Hamilton, thwarted, disillusioned, is not kindly or protective towards Salinger, the child of his imagination. But his book is as devious, as compelling, and in a covert way as violent, as a story by Chandler.



Fine lines: Henry Moore's "Page from Sketchbook 1947-9: Reclining Figures" Delights of an indulgence in the essential art

Henry Moore was a fine draughtsman as well as a great sculptor. Even when his hands were crippled by arthritis, he kept paper, pencils, and charcoal always beside him for what he described as an "essential activity". In *Henry Moore Drawings* (Thames & Hudson, £45) Anne Garrold, curator of drawings at the Henry Moore Foundation, selects, annotates, and relates to the sculpture more than 300 of her uncle's favourite drawings. Familiar and new images that have formed the new way that we see the world are here, from those reclining mothers and children, to the Underground in the Blitz, to the pretty sheep of old age.

Observation posts

Are they really
work-obsessed
and humourless?

Germany and the Germans by John Ardagh (Penguin, £5.95)

After two world wars, Germany still provokes such deep emotions that objective reporting suffers. "In every German there is a blond beast. Try to find it," I was told before going to Bonn as a correspondent. And on arrival one old hand remarked cynically: "Fleet Street needs only two stories here — old Nazis and new Nazis."

We all know what Germany was. But few seem interested in what this tortured, deficient, multi-faceted, and enigmatic nation has become. What is daily life in the Federal Republic like? Are the stereotypes valid — a formal society, where a secretary can work five years for her boss without ever learning his Christian name; a coldly efficient industrial power, strike-free, and work-obsessed, earnest, humourless and bound by myriad rules and regulations?

Germany and the Germans looks at the parts of truth in all this (Germans are formal, but still form firm friendships, and the work ethic is waning); and with extraordinary detail, humour, sympathy, and almost Germanic thoroughness examines the evolution of society in the past 40 years, and the profound changes wrought by the cataclysm of war, occupation, and political division. John Ardagh, following his much-acclaimed books on France, has produced a brilliant and monumental portrait of the neighbour to the east, a magnificent synthesis of fact, incidents, history, and plain sharp-eyed observation and good reporting.

He takes us first on a brisk tour through the big cities — essential in a country without a capital, where regional differences mean so much. Munich: stylish, showy, rollicking and prosperous; Stuttgart: gentler, kinder, thrifty, and somewhat pawky-humoured, home of Mercedes, Porsche, and the thoughtful Mayor, Rommel. Hamburg: fresh, northern, tolerant, and open to the intellect and the world beyond. Bremen: folklorish and sedate. And of course Berlin: isolated, divided but vibrant, Bohemian, an anachronism frozen in the time-war of post-war occupation. Ardagh disliked only Düsseldorf, snobbish and hard, and dozy, provincial Bonn, where politicians and bureaucrats work apart in an atmosphere of "hectic boredom".

Ardagh's shrewdness and wit enliven everything — the analysis of Federalism, the contrast between Bavarian boom and rust-belt Ruhr, the tedium of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy. His many statistics, refreshingly up-to-date, reinforce the skilful demolition of stereotypes. The Ruhr is not a black and noisy inferno, but often green, pastoral, with woods and mead-

ows on top of the old slagheaps, the countryside by contrast is less the sylvan glade of German literature and imagination than a large, dull, rural suburb, where farmers want all the comforts of city living, while city dwellers escaping to their cottages "in practice have tended to lodge complaints. German style, against the smell of manure and even the crowing of cocks in the early morning". Farms offend against the Teutonic need for silence.

Ten months of exhaustive



Watching and watched: East German border guard, Berlin

research that took Ardagh to every corner of the country, and conversations with almost all the main figures in West Germany today (as well as earlier interviews with such Zeitgeist figures as the late Reinhard Werner Fassbinder, the iconoclastic film maker), have led to judgements that are insightful, balanced, and not always flattering. German women may be chic and liberated but they are still rigorously excluded from the world of politics and business by unreformed male prejudice; German schools tend to train the mind without moulding character, and lack a warm sense of community; the new classless society has many petty snobberies; and xenophobia has made the acceptance of Turks and other darker-skinned "guest workers" especially slow and painful, despite liberal laws and a social conscience deeply troubled by the racist Nazi past.

On the broad outlines, Ardagh has covered every aspect of life in West Germany

today — the modernist Greens campaigning on dying woods, pollution, and nuclear energy; the engaged intellectuals with their wilfully provocative theatre often biting the generous hand of state patronage; the sedulously organized and, to outsiders (including Ardagh), rather silly municipal craziness of Karneval. He covers the tricky relations with East Germany by devoting a chapter to life in the GDR that, while making few political judgements, or direct comparisons, gives enough of the dreary and stifling background to put into context comments on national identity and the elusive reunification dream.

But it is in the details that this outstanding book brings the country alive. Ardagh went to an avant-garde "happening" in Munich, a satire on Carl Orff "that included making music with saucepans, saws, and squeaky toys against a flickering backdrop of 30 banked-up video screens showing old films, while a girl combed five live and rather smelly pink pigs. In the intervals of nodding off, I felt to reflecting that the fringe and avant-garde in Germany like so much else, do suffer from the lack of a big capital city that could set a standard."

He wryly describes the rigidity of shop closing laws, which allow no Sunday trading except bakeries between 11am and 3pm, florists — "Oh compassionate law-givers!" — who can open if they are within 300 metres of a cemetery, and station foyers that remain open for bona fide travellers if they can produce a ticket. "The trouble with Germans is that, if they have a law, they tend to keep it." He visited Frau Beate Uhse, a sex-shop owner, where "after a canteen lunch she showed me round her new open plan headquarters, all as neat and antiseptic as a doctor's surgery. The demure staff, in white medical jackets, were packaging plastic penises."

He asks the big and painful questions still obsessing the world and German society itself, so given to neurotic introspection: have the lessons of the past been digested? How stable is democracy? His answer, written with all the tact of a man who has recently married a young German, but who still in his heart does not have the affection for the Germans he has for the French, is that for all the vestiges of authoritarianism, fanaticism, inflexibility, and the romanticism that has divided the post-1968 generation so sharply from its elders, Germany today is a model of a sensible, humane, and balanced European society. No blond beast is about to emerge. There is far more for Fleet Street to write about than old Nazis and new Nazis.

Michael Binyon

Sisters and scribblers

Writing Lives: Conversations Between Women Writers edited by Mary Chamberlain (Virago, £7.95)

authors. But memory lapses and lies, and its prompts and pauses expose the mind's murkier side. Its hesitations, its repetitions expose the process of writing, as well as the writer. Memory's silences and syllogisms speak, cause pain and refusal. And on she goes.

If you skip the prolixity of the introduction you will find some real gems among this mixed bag of Virago authors. The range of class, race, and nationality is wide; predictably, the range of political affiliations is less so — not a book where you would expect to come across a Thatcherite, or even a liberal.

There are in fact only about three out of the 20 who have not been actively involved with politics throughout their lives. Kathleen Dayus, Rosamund Lehmann, and Molly Keane. The interview with Kathleen Dayus is one of the best. Born in 1903, she grew up in the slums of

Birmingham, living off parish relief and begging. Widowed before she was 30, she put her children into Dr Barnardo's for a couple of weeks while she found somewhere to live. It took her eight years to get them back. In her seventies she started to write her autobiography — the first part of which was published by Virago when she was 79. Gritty, colourful and totally lacking in self-pity, she should not be missed.

At the opposite end of the social scale is Molly Keane. Brought up in a privileged Anglo-Irish world, she is gloriously and defiantly unserious. She claims her writing was purely a means of earning money, "so I could go on having lots of fun and going to horse shows and hunting and enjoying myself with my friends."

Keane is particularly happy juxtaposed to Yvonne Kapp, biographer of Eleanor Marx, former research officer for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and Communist party member. Kapp dismisses her early novels as

trivial, her youth was characterized by "light-mindedness" (including a job as literary editor of *Vogue*). "I joined the Party, not for sentimental reasons. It gave me a seriousness which I hadn't had before." In fact, this is misleading, as Kapp is very witty, and her life is fascinating — she even makes her job at the AEU sound so.

The names vary in achievement and fame: Rebecca West, Dora Russell, Naomi Mitchison, Maya Angelou, being among the more illustrious. Others are more obscure, writers whose long-forgotten works have been rediscovered and reprinted by Virago: "We're being exhumed before we die," as Dora Birtles puts it. What they all have in common is energy and indomitability. It is a lesson in how to grow old impressively.

In the best pieces, the interviewers just let them get on and talk: the ones interrupted with questions like "Do you feel that the essays in *Seduced and Abandoned* are also ethical commentaries?" never seem to get off the ground. By describing their lives, their writing is also revealed, that process described by Rebecca West as "nauseous", and, most eloquently, by Molly Keane as, "the grims, absolutely the grims".

Annabel Edwards

From regal to rural

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting paperback published this week

FICTION

A Mirror for Princes by Tom de Haven (Arrow, £3.99) Fantasy-historical of love and tragedy and power struggle in a sabre-toothed world like our Middle Ages.

A Model Childhood by Christa Wolf, translated by Ursula Molinaro & Hedwig Rappolt (Virago, £5.95) Powerful story of a pretty ordinary childhood, in the bosom of a normal Nazi family, starting in Landsberg in 1933.

Collected Short Stories by Ruth Rendell (Arrow, £4.99). Fortunate and Jacinta by Benito Pérez Galdós, translated with an introduction by Agnes Moncy Gullón (Penguin Classics, £6.99) Classic novel of two women in love with the same man in Madrid in the 1870s.

Pig Earth by John Berger (The Hogarth Press, £6.95) Portraits of a peasant community and its people, the hope and harshness of everyday life in the darkest sticks.

The Fire-Dwellers by Margaret Laurence (Virago, £4.50) First published in 1960, from the "Manawaka Series" by one of Canada's finest novelists, about the turmoil behind the placid facade of the life of an ordinary housewife and mother.

QUICK GUIDE

Summit by D M Thomas (Abacus, £3.95) US President and Soviet leader plus grotesque spouses get together to solve their problems and those of the world, in political and sexual satire.

The Book and the Brotherhood by Iris Murdoch (Penguin, £4.99) Short-listed for last year's Booker: group of old Oxford friends and intellectuals locked down the years in ideological, personal, sexual, and bloody knots.

NON-FICTION

Victoria R.I. by Elizabeth Longford (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95) Vivid and



Victoria R.I. by Elizabeth Longford (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95) Vivid and

revivifying life of the extraordinary and very ordinary little Queen, in a big new paperback format.

Byzantium, The Empire of the New Rome by Cyril Mango (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95) History of Civilization series, discussing our great bridge to the ancient world by themes rather than straight chronology.

Dictionary of Art & Artists edited by David Piper (Collins, £4.95) Nearly 3,000 entries covering all schools and periods and personalities of Western art from Phidias to Hockney.

Modern Times by Mel Calman (Andre Deutsch, £3.95) Our own pocket commentator with collected oblique and keynote view of us in the Eighties.

Shakespeare on Television edited by JC Bulman & HR Coursen (University Press of New England, £9.95) An anthology of essays and reviews.

Out of the Wilderness, Diaries 1963-67 by Tony Benn (Arrow, £7.99) Quite chatty political and personal memoirs, often trivial, more Bertie Wooster than the Efficient Baxter.

The Last Medici by Harold Acton (Cardinal, £4.99) Classic account of the 17th-century decay and decline of the great dynasty, doomed ornamental beings, mere occupants of a remarkable museum.

Poetic old loves

PAPERBACKS

The Idylls of Theocritus translated by Robert Wells (Corgi, £9.95)

Pastoral poetry, in which the loves of shepherds and shepherdesses are made emblematic of human passion generally, was, for all practical purposes, invented by Theocritus in the third century BC. Although now fallen out of favour, European literature is unimaginable without it — Virgil would never have written his *Eclogues* without the Greek example. Milton certainly could not have conceived of *Lycidas*, and in this century as excellent a poet as Norman Cameron might not have had images and vocabulary immediately to hand for one of the most beautiful love poems in the language, "Shepherdess". Yet Theocritus himself has for centuries been more saluted than consulted by English readers, largely because the last attempt at a complete translation by a working poet was done by Thomas Creech as long ago as 1684. It is against this background that we should welcome Robert Wells's version of *The Idylls of Theocritus* as an important book.

Let me pick up two things from the critical apparatus accompanying this text, to whet the appetite. First, in his introduction, Wells characterizes Theocritus as "the most playful of poets" and reports that reading him, he often feels that he has come on the scene just after a joke has been made, "too late to catch the joke but in time to share the atmosphere of amusement which follows it".

Second, drawing attention in an appendix to the realism of Theocritus's bucolic world, Wells remarks that in the *Idylls* the encounter of shepherd and scholar "is not so much that of ignorance with learning as that of two different kinds of learning" (my italics). Only someone with a well-instructed love for the Sicilian original could have made either of these remarks. Only a poet, in my opinion, would have made both of them.

This translation can be read as a replanting, in English soil, of stuff fundamental to poetry itself, roots that have persisted despite all chance and change of fashion:

*That pinetree by the spring
and your touch on the pipe:
Both whisper a music to
draw the listener in.*

*With its sweetness, goatherd,
Only Pan plays sweeter.*

The erotic, the graceful, the clumsy, the exact — these are the properties of Theocritus's art, country matters treated in a courtly manner which discovers with delight their poetic significance. Wells catches spirit and substance exquisitely in a translation that uses for the most part a five-stress unrhymed line, though rhyme comes appropriately to his task for different reasons. If poetry is usually what gets lost in translation, this is all the more an unusual book, and one in which good humour is sovereign.

Robert Nye

PLEASE HELP BANGLADESH BEFORE ALL HOPE IS WASHED AWAY

The flood which devastated Bangladesh last week has washed away the homes and livelihoods of millions.

Upwards of a thousand may already be dead, and unless fresh water and food supplies are provided quickly, the next threat of serious disease will wash away the hopes of thousands more.

World Vision can rush supplies to the danger areas. We have teams of workers on the spot.

But we need cash. And we need it now. Please, please help the hungry and homeless of Bangladesh. Because of the postal situation, phone your pledge today or pay in to any branch of Barclays Bank. Quote Bangladesh Emergency Acc. No. 30987069. Sort Code 20:61:51.

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OUT & ABOUT



Sudbury Hall: the house was created by the endeavours of one man, George Vernon, who probably did not employ an architect; it presents a friendly, open aspect

Qualities of a dream

Shimmering is not something English houses do very well. But Sudbury Hall, in the right light and at the right distance, can shimmer convincingly. It has the right texture, in its combination of diaper-patterned brick work (criss-cross, that is), tall windows full of rippled old glass, and carved stone work rich in light and shade.

Sudbury's is a very individual, even puzzling, exterior. It represents, in fact, several distinct phases of architectural taste from 1660 to near the end of the 17th century, all coming together in a pungent combination.

The house, near Uttoxeter, was created during those decades by the endeavours of one man, George Vernon, who probably employed no architect. A gentleman in those days was expected to be well up to designing his own house, and Vernon probably agreed with the contemporary opinion: "A profest architect is proud, opinionative and troublesome, seldom at hand, and a head workman pretending to ye designing part, is full of pauntry vulgar contrivances; therefore be

your owne architect, or sitt still."

Vernon seems to have begun work on Sudbury Hall in a conservative spirit, looking back to Jacobean models, but as he went on he incorporated more and more fashionable ideas, until he was able to cap his building with a hipped roof, dormer windows and a cupola, the latest style.

The entrance front of Sudbury presents a slightly forbidding aspect, with the two wings jutting forward each side of a towering two-storey frontispiece. Curiously divided upper windows give the impression of long faces looking down at the visitor through censorious pairs of spectacles.

But the garden front has a more friendly, open face, and below it, beyond the formal terraces, the lawn sweeps down to a wide, glittering lake. From this side Vernon's creation, topped by the shining golden ball above the cupola, has an almost dream-like quality.

Sudbury, by great good fortune, has survived virtually unaltered, despite successive plans to remodel it — all of which came to nothing. The

Sudbury Hall, with its criss-cross patterned brick and carved stonework, is rich in light and shade. Nigel Andrew reports

only major change was the addition of an east wing, very sensitively done by George Devey in 1876.

But what is most remarkable is that, inside, Vernon's creation has survived unscathed. For this is the most perfect interior of its period, and a quite dazzling display of the decorative arts then at their peak — wood carving and plaster work. Anyone with a propensity to cracks in the neck should think twice before visiting Sudbury, for they will spend much of their time looking upward in amazement.

Vernon at first employed local talent to embellish his house. But soon he was calling on the best London men, including Edward Pierce and Grinling Gibbons for wood carving, and Bradbury and Pettifer for plasterwork. The

sensational results are there for all to see.

Gibbons can be savoured at his best in the library overmantel, a miraculously life-like cascade of game and fish, fruit and flowers carved in pinewood. Pierce created a staircase which is surely among the finest in England, its balustrade richly and energetically carved as an ascending riot of acanthus leaves.

Above it, and indeed under it, Bradbury and Pettifer wrought wonders of richly decorative plaster work, and to finish it off in the latest fashion of the 1690s, Vernon had the Frenchman Laguerre fill in the panels with mythological paintings.

Throughout the house those exquisite ceilings continually urge the eye upwards — and nowhere more so than in the long gallery. This in itself is an

unheard-of feature in a house of this period. Perhaps Vernon was here looking backwards again, eager to stress his ancient lineage — and even to extend it, for the family portraits that line the walls are overlooked by carved images.

These stare down boggled-eyed and leering from below a ceiling rich in incident, but everywhere worked with the utmost delicacy. Here a profusion of birds, beasts and flowers extricate themselves from Bradbury and Pettifer's luxuriant foliage. There is even a merry group of crickets on the ceiling of the central window bay.

The family portraits which abound at Sudbury include what was for me an interesting discovery — several works by John Michael Wright, a very individual portraitist of the late 17th century, whose likenesses possess a rare vigour and originality. Happily, Vernon had himself painted by this remarkable artist, and the result out-shines the grander images in the saloon.

The Vernons continued in possession of Sudbury right down to this century, though the house was frequently

leased — at one time to Queen Adelaide, the consort of William IV. But in 1967 the family gave the house over to the National Trust, who refurbished it and opened it to the public.

The grounds retain almost nothing of George Vernon's former arrangements, which were swept away in the landscaping mania of the 18th century. Later, the fourth Lord Vernon, a keen agriculturalist, filled in the lake and attempted to grow maize, but the fifth lord restored it.

Devey's wing now houses a remarkable museum of childhood (run by the county council) which goes far beyond the usual collection of old dolls and bygone playthings. This, with the medieval church, the delightful red brick village, and the excellent Vernon Arms, where good food and drink can be had, makes Sudbury an uncommonly complete and satisfying day out.

Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire (028 378305) is sited off the A50; it is open until the end of October, Wednesday to Sunday, 1-5.30pm. Admission adult £2.20, child £1.10.

OUTINGS

the war. Members of the Southern Slidmish Association representing the Northern Union and Southern confederacy, join battle today and tomorrow. Also topical exhibition and musical entertainment. The American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath (0225 605003). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm. Museum and gardens. Adults £3, child £2. Gardens only — including Civil War — £1.

DUXFORD 88: Main Duxford airshow of the year with a dramatic three-hour flying programme. Duxford Airfield, Duxford, Cambridgeshire (0223 833963). Tomorrow, Red Arrows at noon. Flying display

2-5pm. Adult £5 child £2.50. **HORSEMAN'S SUNDAY:** Annual service for horses and their riders or drivers, with the vicar conducting the service on horseback. Church of St John and St Michael, Hyde Park Crescent, London W2. Tomorrow at noon. Free.

WARGAMES AND MODELLING FAIR: Displays of models, uniforms, weapons, and equipment, miniature wargames and skirmishes, demonstrations and model-painting competitions with plenty of opportunities to participate. Trade stands, refreshments. The Hexagon, Queen's Walk, Reading, Berkshire (0734 591591). Today,

tomorrow 10.30am-6pm. Adult £2, child 5-16 £1, under 5s free.

GREENWICH BOOK FAIR: Thirty booksellers offering quality antiquarian and secondhand books for sale. Borough Hall, Royal Hill, Greenwich, London SE10. Tomorrow, 11am-5pm.

MODEL RAILWAYS EXHIBITION: Twelve model railways on display, demonstrations, trade stands, a Hornby repair service and refreshments. Christchurch Centre, School Road, Yardley Wood, Birmingham. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Adult 60p, child 30p.

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTORS FAIR: 700 stands selling an enormous

range of items. Light refreshments. Free shuttle service from British Rail Alexandra Palace station. Alexandra Palace Great Hall, Wood Green, London N22 (01-883 6477). Tomorrow noon-6pm. Adult £1.50, accompanied child free.

NEWBURY AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW: Classes, competitions and judging in cattle, sheep, horses, flower tent, rural crafts and food, vintage machinery and Royal Naval Field Gun displays, a ski-jump spectacular plus "one man and his dog" sheep dog competition. Priors Court, Chieveley, Berkshire. Today, tomorrow.

Judy Froshaug

COLLECTING

Getting a lift from cabriole legs

Peter Philp looks at the Windsor chair, once linked to the castle

"This would have been a nice old Windsor chair," said the owner. "If someone hadn't stuck these Queen Anne legs on at the front. One of those Victorian embellishments we hear so much about, I suppose."

"No, it's still a nice old Windsor chair," the valuer assured her, "dating from about 1770. The cabriole legs — to give their proper name — are original, and count very much in its favour. The legs on the common type of Windsor chair, made for the kitchen and the workman's cottage, were turned on the lathe. This was a superior version intended for use on the terraces of country houses."

"A post one? Really? But it seems to be made of different kinds of wood. Shouldn't it be all oak?"

"Windsor chairs were made with a combination of timbers: Elm for the seat, beech for the spindles in the back and the turned legs; ash, fruitwood or occasionally yew for the bent parts. I've never seen one in oak. Yours has an elm seat, but the rest is mostly yew — a beautiful, orange-brown wood with curious little curls in the grain, much admired by collec-

tors. That, and the cabriole legs, lift it so far out of the common run that it would probably cost at least £1,500 to replace."

"Hugo will be pleased. He bought it years ago, covered in green paint, for a fiver, and cleaned it off with paint stripper."

"Many Windsor chairs were painted when new, but not yew tree ones. Fortunately, it's a wood that responds quickly to wax polishing."

"Were they all made at Windsor? I know they got their name when George III took shelter in a cottage near there, and was given a chair that he found so comfortable that he ordered more for the castle."

"The story can't be true, because the name was already in use in 1726, 10 years before he was born. Chairs of a rather similar type were made in many areas, but the beechwoods of Buckinghamshire, between Slough and Windsor,

were a main source of supply. Many of the makers worked in the open air, fashioning the freshly-cut timber and allowing only a short time for the parts to season before assembly."

"Then why didn't they warp and split?"

"Mainly because the method known as 'stick construction' was so simple — no dovetails or mortise-and-tenon joints, no screws or nails — just holes into which the ends of the members were wedged. The legs were turned by the bodger on a pole lathe, using the springiness of a green sapling to provide tension for the treads. The bows were steamed and bent into shape by the bender: the saving and fretting of the slats in the back was the benchman's job: the seats were shaped with an adze by the bottomer."

"How apt! Who put all the bits together?"

"The framer, if it was done on site. But often they were

sent piecemeal to workshops in London or Chipping Wycombe near by, which became High Wycombe and the centre of a huge furniture industry. The first chair-making factory was established there about 1810 and by 1875 the town was producing 4,700 Windsor chairs daily."

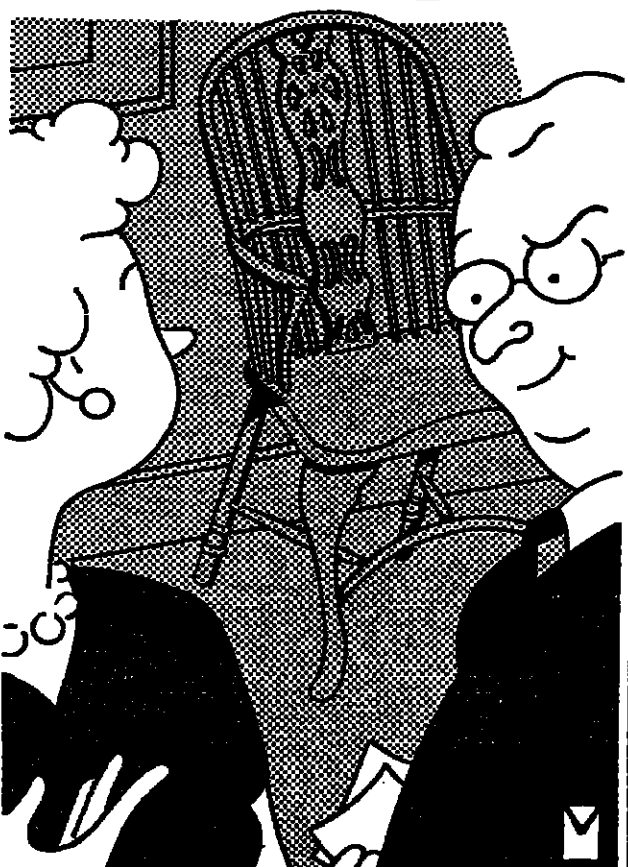
"All exactly alike?"

"Not quite, but by that time they'd become pretty well standardized. The commonest type was the wheel-back, so called because of the fretted pattern cut in the slat. The 18th-century comb-back had a flat rail at the top with the spindles set into it like the teeth of a comb. About 1770, when yours was made, an even posher, cabriole-legged model had a Gothic arch-back. A good example in yew can now fetch £3,000."

"And I've always thought of Windsor chairs — even antique ones — as inexpensive. Now, it seems, they're no cheaper than Chippendale."

"Many modest examples can still be bought at sensible prices — especially those without arms."

"You mean they don't cost an arm and a cabriole leg?"



TRAVEL

America waives

TRAVEL NEWS

The experimental waiving of visa requirements for British visitors to the United States is proving a success and could be made permanent, according to the US Embassy in London.

Some 20,000 Britons have already entered the USA without a visa since the scheme was introduced on July 1, but a special waiver form — available on aircraft — still has to be completed and presented to US immigration officers on arrival.

Supplies of the form are also available from ABTA-member travel agents, as well as a guide to the new system produced by the US Embassy.

Visas are being waived for British visitors travelling on holiday or on business and planning to be in the USA for 90 days or less. But anyone arriving in the States from another country — via Canada, for instance — still needs a visa.

February 10 and 24. Prices start at £1,200 for the Christmas sailing and £930 in February. Information from Cruise International on 01-930 0371.

Early winner

Silk Cut Travel is offering discounts of £100 on all holidays based on British Airways flights from Gatwick or Manchester to Antigua, Barbados and St Lucia between now and December 4. This brings the lead-in price for a 14-night apartment holiday in Barbados down to £549, while there is an additional discount of £35 per person per week at the Anse Chastanet Hotel on St Lucia for holidays taken before October 20. Information: 0730 65211.

Florida flights

Charter flights across the Atlantic usually dry up at the end of the summer, but American Airplan will be running a programme to New York, Boston and Orlando right through the winter from both Gatwick and Manchester. Return fares start at £199 to New York and Boston and £269 to Orlando. Information: 0932 231422.

Maple month

The Canadian airline Nationair has joined the ranks of those offering £199 return trans-Atlantic fares this winter. The offer applies to flights from Gatwick to Hamilton — Toronto's alternative airport — between now and December 15 and from January 15 to April 30. Reservations have to be made at least 21 days before departure, with a minimum stay of seven days and a maximum of one month. There is a £25 supplement for bookings made within 21 days of departure. Information: 0444 415551.

Philip Ray

SNOWDON



Charisma at the Kirov: with a break at the ballet (above)

TRAVEL BOOKS

● Visitors to Thailand will find their every need covered in *A Times Bartholomew Guide to Thailand* (£7.95). Brief sections cover the usual gamut of tourist information, from useful phrases, maps, hotels and social customs to a quick canter through Bangkok's massage parlours and other night life. A tremendous amount of facts and illustrations are packed into this neat, compact handbook, ideal for slotting into hand luggage.

● As tourists start to arrive en masse in China, so the travel books proliferate. *China's Railways* by Colin Garratt, which is to be published on Monday (Patrick Stephens,

£12.95), takes a slightly unusual track. The author describes journeys by rail across the country with the enthusiasm of the true train buff for whom China, which still actually builds steam trains, is something of a railway man's dream. Garratt writes with great verve and knowledge about Chinese locomotives old and new, and there are many evocative illustrations, particularly of new steam engines in the testing sheds at Datong. Unlike Paul Theroux's new work on the same subject, this is a technical book aimed largely at the railway specialist.

Kate Finch

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TRAVEL

Dance of the bearded manakin

Trinidad and Tobago, which escaped the attentions of Hurricane Gilbert, offer more than beaches and palm-girt bays. Roger Berthoud goes birdspotting

Could this be the Caribbean idyll my wife and I had envisaged? The alarm clock shrilled at 6am. It had been a bad night doing battle with a hard and rubbery pillow. The rum punches of the previous evening were now taking their toll. For the conscientious amateur bird-watcher, however, there was work to be done.

We were spending 24 hours in the Asa Wright Nature Centre in the heart of the rain-forest of northern Trinidad with my diplomat brother, who is en poste 75 minutes' drive away in the capital of Port of Spain. As we stumbled down a well-marked trail, binoculars in hand, orange-winged parrots screamed excitedly, climbing skywards with rapid, bat-like wingbeats before planning noisily downwards, and the sun stole over the rim of the 3,000 ft. tree-clad hills of the Northern Range.

This rain forest was far from the steamy, Amazonian affair of my imagination, fed on BBC2 documentaries; yet it was exciting enough for a novice with fiances hanging from the 100 ft canopy of trees, and termites' nests abounding. Among the many species we spotted were the lovely, jay-like blue-crowned motmot, or king of the woods, the delectably named violaceous euphonia, and the little white-bearded manakin, which clicks its wings in unique fashion and dances up and down when sexually aroused: most of the time, seemingly. Returning to base, we saw a manioc, or black-eared opossum, fleeing through a grove of bananas, and an enchanting black squirrel.

The island owes much of its exceptionally rich wildlife, it seems, to its location a few

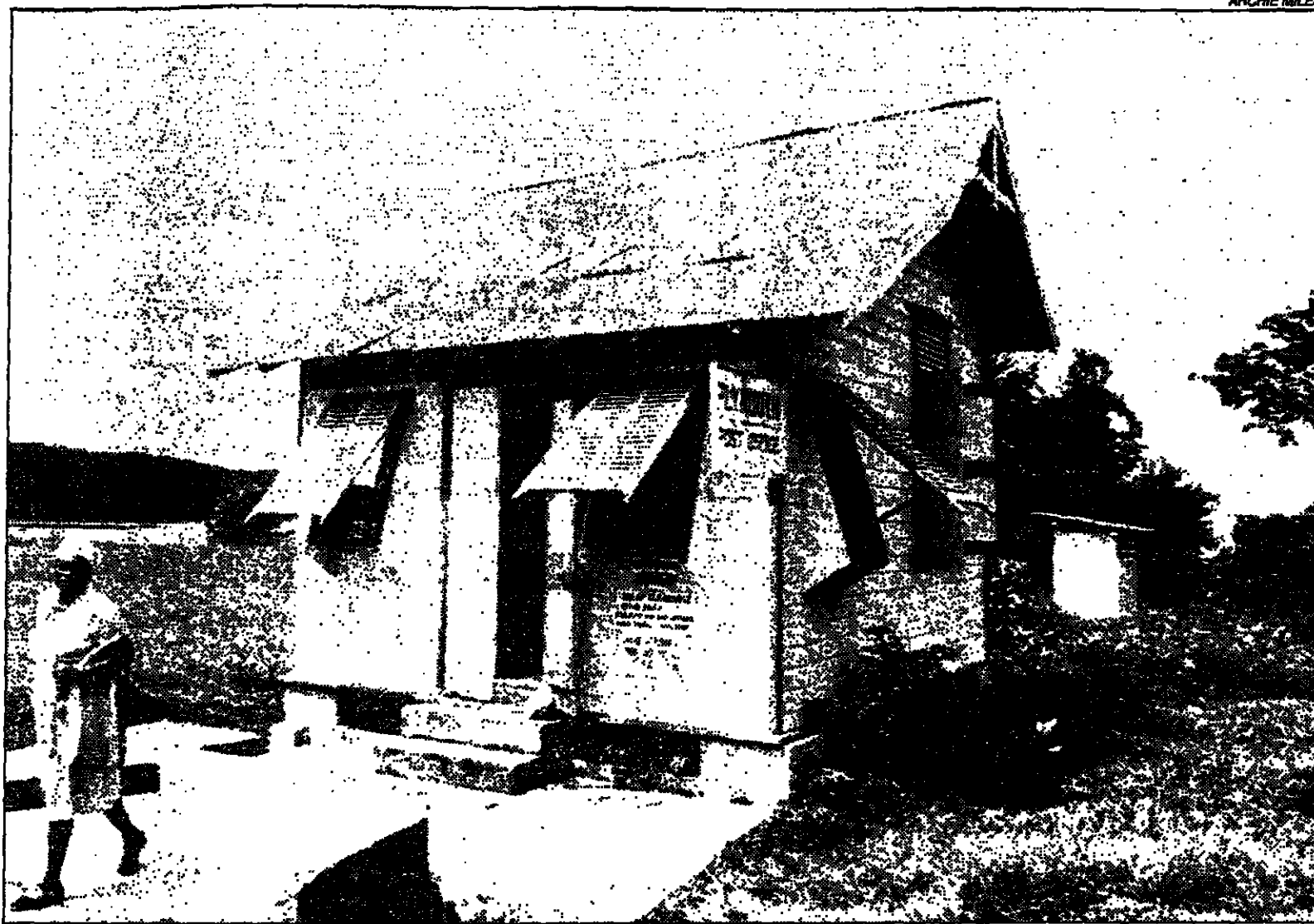
miles off the Venezuelan mainland, of which it was once a part. The hills on which we stood are a spur of the Andes. Among those who appreciated the fauna and flora were a British barrister, Dr Newcome Wright, and his Icelandic wife Asa. In 1967, 20 years after they had bought the 200-acre citrus, coffee and cocoa estate, she transferred it to the wildlife trust which has since run it. Accommodation and good, reasonably priced food are available there, as is transport from the airport and an experienced naturalist guide, if desired.

We had arrived the previous afternoon, admiring as we climbed up the Arima Valley, the yellow blossoms of the pool trees, the red blaze of late-flowering flamboyants, and the curious little parasitic bromeliads, which attach themselves to telegraph wires as well as trees, as they are able to feed on air.

We had barely begun to marvel at the view down the valley from the sitting room of the splendidly colonial old plantation house when a toucan - channel-billed, my brother assured us - flew across, a lucky sighting to start a rich 24 hours.

Perhaps the most thrilling single spectacle in Trinidad (the February carnival apart) is found in much less inspiring scenery: the evening flight of the scarlet ibis in the Caroni Marshes. To catch this, we foregathered near a gas bottling plant just 20 minutes' drive from Port of Spain.

Sadly, our timing was not ideal: between October and February is the best time to catch these large and strikingly handsome birds in huge flocks. By April, we were warned, most had repaired to



All part of the Caribbean pace of life: the post office at Plymouth, on the north coast of the Tobago - Trinidad's smaller, prettier neighbour

the Orinoco delta in Venezuela to breed.

As we puttered in a punt-like boat up a canal towards the main lakes with a group of Dutch tourists for company, our guide pointed out four-eyed fish swimming along the edge, bulging eyes protruding frog-like from the water, and fiddler crabs, groups of which waved their single big claws from the sand in unison, like an orchestra of rude gesturers.

After pausing by a large, shallow lake studded with feeding snowy egrets and herons we came, as the sun set, to a deeper expanse of water. The boat was tied to a protruding stick at a tactful distance from the mangrove trees in which

the ibis habitually roosted. It takes the adult birds three years, our guide explained, to absorb enough keratin from their food to turn their plumage bright scarlet. Suddenly, as we watched through our indispensable binoculars, in came the first group of a dozen birds, several of them a truly staggering shade of red. In the next half hour we saw about 80 of them circling and landing, and could well imagine the glory of the full complement of some 6,000. We returned at full throttle, the wake glowing red in the sunset - and without seeing a single mosquito.

For the more familiar pleasures of sand and sea we

headed one day for a 30-minute drive across the hills from unlovely Port of Spain, again through fine scenery, to Maracas Beach, set in the mandatory palm-girt bay and considered the finest in the area.

Amid the boisterous waves the swimmers reflected Trinidad's genuinely multi-racial character: whites, Afro-Caribbeans and Trinids of East Indian descent, many of them farmers and even darker skinned than the Afro-Caribbeans. Only the Chinese were missing, presumably making money indoors.

For a richer variety of

beaches in a smaller area, Trinidad's smaller, poorer and more obviously idyllic sister island of Tobago, just 20 minutes' flight away, is the natural destination. There we stayed at the spacious Mount Irvine Bay hotel, which has its own golf course, a superb swimming pool with underwater stools by the bar, and a converted sugar mill for a restaurant.

Thinly populated and scarcely developed, Tobago is almost indecently picturesque. From the coastal road, tracks lead off to deserted bays with small, horse-shoe-shaped beaches which can feel quite private. Life seemed good indeed as we

floated off one of these, watching the frigate birds planing overhead, and brown pelicans, so much more gainly in flight than on land, diving-bombing the sea with terrific force, followed by a mob of greedy gulls anxious to scavenge any leftovers of fish.

The most romantic part of the island is, again, the north. The twisty and often precipitous roads along the coast and through the wooded hills prove tiring, but provide some memorable views of the sea and outlying islets. At the Blue Waters Inn, near Speyside, we stopped for a delicious lunch of lobster with garlic sauce. Nearby, an ornithologist acquaintance showed us a ruby

topaz humming bird on its tiny nest of lichen. It was hard to equate this fragile and vulnerable creature with the astonishingly aggressive humming birds which contested the nectar feeders with the golden orioles and bananaquits on the veranda of my brother's house.

Tobago's concentrated charm and beauty nicely complement the patchwork distribution of Trinidad's more varied attractions and facilities. We were glad we had divided our holiday between the two. Palm-fringed beaches are wonderful, but I suspect it is the rain forest and Caroni Marshes that I shall remember best.



TRAVEL NOTES

Apex return flights to Port of Spain £499 (BA and British West Indian Airways). Port of Spain to Tobago £21 (US\$32). Hotels are half as cheap off season (April 15-Dec 15); for example, Viceroy Hotel, Port of Spain: US\$120 per night; Hotel Normandie, Port of Spain: US\$70 per night (double occupancy); Mount Irvine Hotel, Tobago: US\$85 per night; Blue Waters Inn, Tobago: US\$40 per night. Car hire costs about US\$125 per day for small, air-conditioned automatic. The climate is best from December to April; humidity is high from May to October. For further information contact the Trinidad & Tobago Tourist Board, 20 Regent Street, London SW1 (01-930 6566).

Win a holiday for two in Hong Kong



A bustling shopping street in Hong Kong, where traders believe in advertising their wares

At any time of the year Hong Kong is one of the most exciting cities in the world, with its spectacular harbour, the unique street life of Wan Chai, the red-light district, permeated by the wafting fragrances of unparalled Chinese cuisine - and of course its duty-free shopping.

One of the world's most luxurious hotels, the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong, overlooking Victoria Harbour, is celebrating its 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion, The Times is offering readers the chance to indulge in a holiday for two with return, first-class tickets, courtesy of Cathay Pacific Airways.

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THE QUESTIONS

1. This year is the Year of the Dragon. What will next year be and when will the Hong Kong Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year?
2. The Peak Tram is one of Hong Kong's most famous tourist attractions. In which year was it opened?
3. From what does Hong Kong's name derive and what is its meaning?
4. Which is the most widely spoken dialect of Hong Kong's Chinese population?
5. Which is the largest of the 235 outlying islands and what is its population?
6. What is the name of Hong Kong's international airport?
7. In which year will Hong Kong be handed over to the Chinese?
8. Name an area of Hong Kong which bears the same name as a Scottish town.

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FAR AND AWAY THE BEST

TRAVEL



Birra, signor? Maybe a plate of olives? A café in the Piazza di San Cosimato in Trastevere, where restaurants spill far out over the cobbles, their tables a permanent invitation to indolence, and their customers more likely to be Romans than tourists

Bow bells in Rome

If Trastevere were moved to London, writes Andrew Powell, its inhabitants would have to be Cockneys

Strangely enough, the best view of Rome is not from one of its seven hills, but from the Janiculum, a wooded ridge which, running parallel to the Tiber, provides the city with a natural western boundary. I have always thought it rather unfair that the Janiculum should have been omitted from the famous list, as it is a good deal more hill-like than the Caelian, the Esquiline, or the Viminal, to name but three.

However, immemorial tradition is doubtless not to be argued with. From the Piazza del Gianicolo, a large open square built around a gesticulating equestrian statue of Garibaldi, you look down on an homogenous, honey-brown mass of roofs and walls, out of which rise the stately, grey, baroque domes of the city's churches. Gradually the great monuments of (in my opinion) the world's most beautiful city emerge from the anonymity of their terracotta setting.

Away to the right is the Colosseum, while across the line of trees that marks the passage of the river squats the distinctive bulk of the Pantheon. To the far left, close to the skyline, are the twin bellfries of Trinità dei Monti and beneath them the blur of the Spanish Steps descending to an invisible Piazza di Spagna.

Obviously, when visiting any great city the famous sights demand to be seen. In Rome, you can scarcely start haunting the back streets until you have hacked your way into the Sistine Chapel and been stifled in the heat of the Forum.

Eventually, however, my capacity to be enthusiastic about yet another masterpiece tends to wane. All I really want to do is to sit at a quiet café with a book and a glass of wine, watching the Italians go about their daily business. To this dilemma Rome fortunately provides a solution.

Perched up on the Janiculum, it is evident that most of the things which fatten up the guidebooks are on the distant, eastern, side of the river (St Peter's and the Vatican being the exceptions). Immediately below, on the west bank of the Tiber, there appears to be just a particularly dense patch of roofs, undistinguished by any notable landmark. This is Trastevere.

Trastevere means "across the Tiber" and for 2,000 years the name has had the connotations "out of town," despite the fact that the river is 100 yards wide at most. Originally it was the city's port, and in consequence inhabited by a raffish and mongrel assortment of people from all over the Mediterranean. Today, paradoxically, it has the reputation of being the most Roman part of Rome, defiantly parochial, resisting assimilation into the modern international city.

washing, crowded with cats, and fragrant with baking pizza and roasting coffee. The very narrowness of the alleys make them a pleasure to walk in, safe from even the most frenzied taxi-driver.

Ladies in aprons lean out of upstairs windows and shout directly across into their neighbours' kitchens. Thanks to some miraculous combination of thrift, obstinacy, and rent control, Trastevere is still overwhelmingly populated by ordinary Romans (or, rather, ordinary Trasteverinos). The population is so stable that the local accent is apparently as strong as ever. It is much as if the cockneys had never left the sound of Bow bells.



Brothers in arms: friends in the Piazza di Santa Maria, at the heart of Trastevere

As I wandered about in August this year, agreeably lost, I noticed that mixed in with the washing overhead were strings of rapidly fading flags, remnants of the Noiantri festival, held every July. Ovid described a similar occasion some 1,900 years ago, only then it was held on June 24.

The Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere, the heart of the whole rione (or district), is possibly my favourite place in Rome. It is quite large, though scarcely on a scale acceptable to Bernini, and enclosed on three sides by old, weather-worn palazzi. The church of Santa Maria itself occupies the fourth side of the square and in the centre there is an ancient, battered, marble fountain. Half a dozen cafés and restaurants spill far out over the cobbles, a flagrant intrusion onto civic property for which, in Britain, planning permission would be perceptibly denied, but which in Italy doesn't seem to bother anyone very much. The tables, covered with starched pink tablecloths and shaded by giant white umbrellas, provide a standing invitation to indolence, one which if you have just walked down from the Janiculum in the mid-morning sunshine is extremely difficult to refuse.

With considerable self-denial I banished the idea of a glass of Pinot Grigio and a dish of olives, and headed instead for the sombre portico of Santa Maria, said by eminent authorities to be the oldest church in Rome. Antique columns from a Roman temple support a ceiling gilded by Domenichino in 1617, while in the apse are opulent mosaics of Christ and the Madonna made by artists from Byzantium in the twelfth century. High up on the facade there are more mosaics which, glinting in the sunshine, should ideally be studied in detail from a table at Sabbatini's, the Piazza's best-known trattoria, directly opposite.

At Sabbatini's the food is simple and filling, short on finesse, but invariably delicious. Having worked my way through a pile of spaghetti carbonara, a generous plateful of grilled prawns and squid and a dish of roasted radicchio shining with virgin olive oil, I felt much better able to take notice of my surroundings. (Trastevere has at least a dozen good restaurants, one of which, Alberto Claria, in the nearby Piazza di San Cosimato, can even boast a Michelin star.)

Although the Piazza di Santa Maria is undoubtedly the centre of the community, the most important place for the Trasteverinos to meet, to gossip and to end their evening *passaggiata*, the *rione* does have other focal points, notably the Piazza di San Cosimato, where there is a pungent daily market; the Piazza dei Mercanti, down by the river where the ancient wharves used to be; and the Porta Settimiana, a gateway at the junction of the Via della Lungara (an old pilgrim route which runs parallel to the Tiber towards St Peter's) and the Via Garibaldi, one of the principal roads down from the Janiculum.

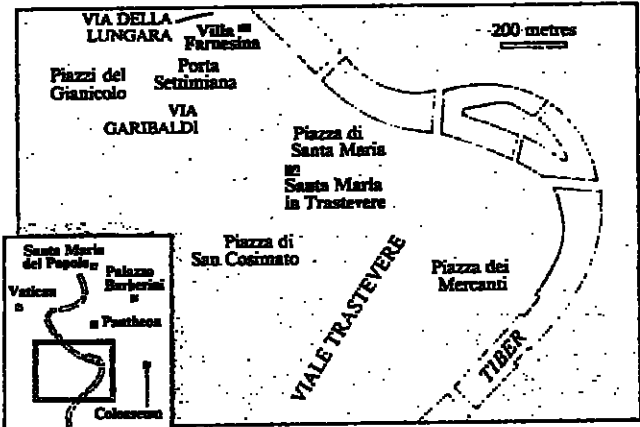
Precisely at this intersection is a restaurant called Romolo, renowned throughout Rome, partly for the arrichoke sauce it serves with pasta, partly for its pretty walled garden, but mostly because it occupies what was once the house of Raphael's girlfriend, the famous Fornarina, or "baker's daughter", for whom the genius pined, neglecting his work and incurring the displeasure of the Pope, who in effect had her kidnapped.

Raphael's story is entirely in keeping with the spirit of Trastevere. You should never neglect the human dimension of the city's history in favour of a dry catalogue of dates and styles. For example, refreshed after lunch at Romolo's and a stroll in the gardens of the Villa Farnesina (where Raphael was eventually allowed to live with his love), one might visit the Palazzo Barberini to see his famous portrait of the Fornarina, and from there proceed to the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, which contains the tomb he designed for Santa Agostino Chigi, the Pope's agent.

Wherever you end up, Trastevere will invariably have left you eager for more, refreshed, revived, and with hitherto unsuspected reserves of enthusiasm.



Around Trastevere: left, the church and fountains of Santa Maria; centre, a restaurant is announced; right, colour on the menu

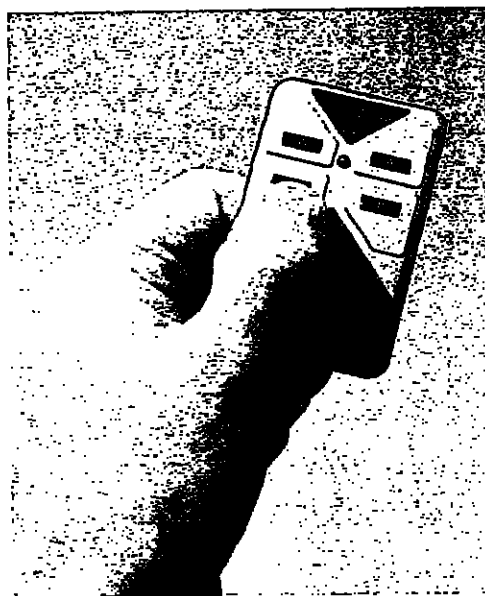


TRAVEL NOTES

There are few hotels in Trastevere (though there are *persone*) and it is therefore sensible to stay on the other side of the Tiber. Many of the hotels in Rome are on, or near, the Via Veneto, in the section of the city which expanded in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to accommodate northern Europeans and Americans on the Grand Tour. Rome's two smartest hotels, the Hassler-Villa Medici and the Eden, are to be found there. More convenient for Trastevere, and somewhat more economical, is the pleasant old-fashioned Hotel Forum, the roof terrace of which has a superb view over the Palatine, and surprisingly enough, the Forum. Cititalia (reservations: 01-686 5533) have a brochure which includes a variety of holidays in Rome. A three-night weekend break at a four-star hotel like The Forum costs from £239 including the return airfare. Cititalia will also tailor-make any holiday in Italy to individual requirements. Guidebooks: the best guidebook is the *Companion Guide to Rome* by Georgina Masson (Collins, £9.95), extremely informative, and well written.

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Compiled by Peter Dear

Last Welsh picture show

CHOICE

When it was shown in the cinema a couple of years ago the first Welsh-language film to have that distinction) *Coming Up Roses* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) was widely seen as drawing on the traditions of Ealing comedy. The theme, certainly, is straight out of Ealing. The attempt to save a Welsh mining town's one remaining cinema, closes the light to retain the branch railway in the *Tippled Thimble* and there is much for the audience to see, like turning over the celluloid images of Martin Brando and Jean Simmons to the cultivation of mushrooms. There is, too, that Ealing scene of clinging to a lost past. Where *Coming Up Roses* departs from Ealing is in its social concern. It is comedy which is ultimately fashioned out of pain and desperation, the broken families. In this, and in the reality of (sometimes too gentle) pace and the deadpan

Peter Waymark

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Inside: Today's racing pages 56-57... Football and rugby previews page 58... Gardening, Outdoor Leisure & Property pages 59-63

Moorhouse given a tough draw in heat

There will be no easy qualification for Adrian Moorhouse in the heats after midnight tonight in the 100 metres breaststroke, judging by the draw in the Olympic pool (Steven Downes writes).

Pay approved

Fina, the international governing body, yesterday approved a constitution at its congress to permit the receipt of money into a trust fund for swimmers for appearances, from endorsements.

Libya relents

Libya have relented and decided to send a team of 13 to Seoul, following a personal plea to Colonel Gaddafi from the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

A close call

Two American yachtsmen, John Shadden and Charlie McKee, have been cleared of cheating but only narrowly escaped disqualification, for cutting holes inside their 470 boat, after it had been officially measured.

Opening plea

The Olympic Games should be open to all athletes, including professionals, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, declared on the eve of opening ceremony in Seoul.

Bike cleared

The International Cycling Union (UCI) yesterday approved the use of the radically designed American racing bike in the Games after an inspection yesterday.

Football three

There will be no football tournament at future Olympic Games unless the International Olympic Committee (IOC) drops demands that all professionals be allowed to play. An emergency meeting of vice-presidents of the International Football Federation (FIFA) yesterday confirmed their decision to restrict the 1992 Barcelona event to players aged under 23.

Turned away

A South African fencing judge has been refused entry to South Korea for the Games. Emanuel Daniels, a former president of the South African Fencing Association, arrived at Seoul's Kimpoo airport on Wednesday but was stopped by immigration staff and made to leave.

Hosts set out to ransom a hostage to ill fortune

By David Miller
Seoul

The Games have begun, and the Russians are here: either of which is remarkable, and welcome, if you pause to think about the events of the past four years. The two strongest forces in sport, the United States and the Soviet Union, face each other for the first time for 12 years in the company of the largest entry from the most countries ever assembled. We are witnessing an Olympic Games of remarkable magnitude.

With a gracious oriental bow and a touch of mystic culture, the South Koreans have welcomed us with a hospitality unsurpassed. It is reminiscent of those golden days in Tokyo, 24 years ago, when sport was supreme, before politics, money and fear had kidnapped the Games. We must pray that the next fortnight passes with the peacefulness and elegance

with which it has begun.

We must hope, too, that on the way, the standards of achievement will reach those peaks of performance which we have been forecasting, and that once again the Olympics will be a testimony to mankind's ambition and potential and not to its vices. Torn for so long by one crisis or another, the world's community needs the reassurance of a happy party and the Olympics are unique in their capacity to provide it.

As Juan Antonio Samaranch said yesterday at the closing of the session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC): "If we have succeeded, the IOC will be showing its worth as one of the world's most important organizations."

No city has ever done more than Seoul to greet the world. The fifth most-populated city with 10 million, this teaming

complex of skyscrapers and shanty towns, handsome green hills and steamy skyline, ancient palaces and tranquil gardens and parks, all woven along either side of the wide and winding Han River, is breathtaking to behold. Sporting facilities are simply an astonishment.

Tokyo in 1974 may have charmed us, but the XXIV Olympics have opened the door to a relatively unknown people, whose response to being discovered is as refreshingly welcoming as the scent of a summer flower.

I do not know if this is the real face of Korea, but towards the Olympic guests their courtesy, if not always their language, is enchanting. It might seem trite to say so, but there is the feeling that Seoul is helping the world to be a nicer place for all its own tortuous problems now and in the immediate future.

We may be surrounded by countless police, and we may have to check our identity and hand baggage every quarter of a mile, but that is the price of a violence which is not unique to this peninsula of the 38th parallel. We have come to terms with it, and I have yet to hear a harsh word by either guard or visitor. I hope the athletes are as comfortable and as attentively cared for as I have been so far.

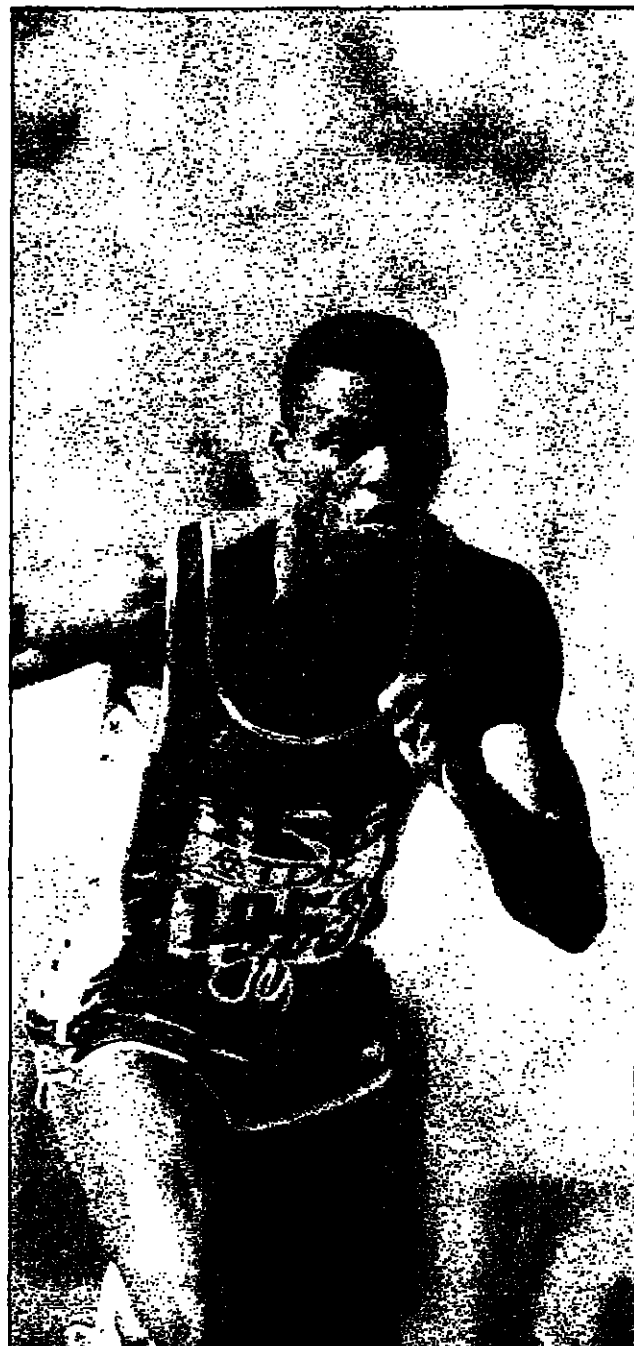
As a journalist, I long for the old days when you could still stroll into the village, unannounced, and chat with whom you pleased. That would be impossible now, never mind the security against terrorism, because 8,000 journalists would shred the competitors' composure with a terror of a different type.

The main news of yesterday is that Mari Gramov, the

Soviet Minister of Sport, was elected to the IOC in place of the late Constantin Andrianov. Gramov, who radiates progressiveness under the health-giving balm of the new Soviet regime, said at a press conference that his ambition as a new IOC member is for greater democracy, which, I suspect, means less power for the IOC members.

The socialist bloc was unhappy at the wipe-out of Sofia in the 1994 Winter Games vote on Thursday. Such matters, Gramov suggests, should come under the influence of national Olympic committees and international federations, rather than being determined by the private votes of the IOC members.

The Russians are back in the fold and meaning business, on and off the track. They should be welcomed, even if we ought to keep as close an eye on them as they do on everyone else.



History beckoning: Carl Lewis, four times a gold medal winner in 1984, aiming to repeat the achievement this year

Course is difficult, Leng says

From Jenny MacArthur
Seoul

Virginia Leng, the reigning world and European champion, yesterday described the cross-country course for the Olympic three-day event — which takes place on Wednesday — as more difficult than the one at Los Angeles, where the British won the silver medal and Mrs Leng, the individual bronze. The Seoul course has been designed by Hugh Thomas, a former British international rider.

Mrs Leng's verdict, backed up by Ian Stark, who was also on the Los Angeles team, came after the five British riders had completed their first walk of the course at Won Dang — 20 miles from the centre of Seoul.

"Although the fences are big it's the terrain which makes it more difficult," Mrs Leng said. "It's not only up and down but you are also traversing slopes continually. It will be a real test of fitness and endurance of the horse." All the riders (Mark Phillips, Karen Straker and Lorna Clarke make up the five) agree that it is "very technical, a rider's course".

Although there are plenty of alternative routes at fences, many of them, said Lord Patrick Beresford, the chief d'equipe, are no easier than the straight route.

Despite the riders' initial reaction, it is expected to suit the British who traditionally thrive over a big cross-country.

Keeping on eye on daunting Kerly

From Sydney Friskin, Seoul

When South Korea play Great Britain at the Olympic tournament starting here tomorrow, they will be closely watching the man wearing shirt No. 13, Sean Kerly, who scored four goals in three matches in the six-nations tournament at Ipoh, Malaysia, in June. The Koreans were beaten 4-0 by Britain in the final but Roger Self, the team manager, said: "We won't be over-confident."

South Korea, holders of the Asian Games title, beat Pakistan 2-1 here this week but lost 3-0 on the following day. Britain, however, have the edge in experience with Kerly, at centre forward, Barber, at full back, and Ian Taylor, in

goal, remaining automatic choices. It will be a tension-filled first day. In group A, Australia seem to have the easiest task against Kenya. Pakistan, the defending champions, could face tough opposition from Spain and The Netherlands ought to beat Argentina.

Britain's match against South Korea is the third of the day in group B. Earlier, the vastly improved Indians may have to struggle a little against the Soviet Union who drew 1-1 with them in Nairobi where India went on to win the invitation tournament.

GREAT BRITAIN (probable): Taylor, D Faulkner, P Barber, J Porter, R Dodds (captain), M Groom, K S Bruns, A Leman, S Kerly, R Clift, Iwan Shervan.

ON OTHER PAGES

Page 50: Said Aouta in colour. Page 51: David Miller's prospects for the game and a detailed guide to the first week. Page 52: equestrianism, tennis and swimming. Page 53: athletics. Page 54: Olympic memories. Other sport on pages 55 and 58. Racing on pages 55 and 56

Discovering Olympic harmony



The smiling spirits: the Britain judo team (from top left) Mark Adhead, Neil Adams, Elvis Gordon, Kerrith Brown, Denzign White, Dennis Stewart and Neil Eckersley promise to give value for little money (John Goodbody writes). In four Olympics, 21 players have won 10 medals — a success rate no other British sport can match.

Arthur Mapp, the team manager, said yesterday that he was "hopeful" of three medals here, but would also be disappointed if the team did not gain its first

gold after four silver and six bronzes. "Five of this squad were in Los Angeles, three winning medals, so they are not overawed by the Games. But the competition is stronger than 1984."

Mapp points out that grants from Minet and the Sports Council provided £88,000 over the past year, but the French squad budget for 1988 was £1.25 million. "To keep the squad together we have to find a sponsor," Adams, twice a Games finalist, says that a "professional body is needed to raise the money." He

hopes success in Seoul will breed backing and welcomes the first tournament in Paris in November with prize money.

Brown, the lightweight, and Eckersley, the bantamweight, both took bronze medals four years ago but the two players with the best hopes are White, the middleweight, and Gordon, the heavy-weight, who finished in the top three places at the last world and European championships. Britain seem set for another successful week in the sport. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Hearts are rested and full of hope

By Roddy Forsyth

After the diversions of World Cup and European club football, the premier division resumes business with at least one capacity crowd, for the meeting of Hearts of Midlothian and Rangers at Tynecastle, Rangers, who lead the championship, stuttered in their last outing, the UEFA Cup tie with Katowice, of Poland.

The continued absence of McCoist through injury is a setback and Rangers were not certain yesterday that Gough was fully fit, although it seems likely that the defender will be ready to take his usual place. Graeme Souness has included himself in a pool of 15 players which also includes Woods, Stevens, Brown, Munro, Gough, Wilkins, Butcher, Drinkell, Ian Ferguson, Durrant, Cooper, Walters, Nisbet and Derek Ferguson.

At Tynecastle Alex MacDonald, the Hearts joint manager, has a full contingent to call upon and he was able to take a cheerful view of McCoist's indisposition. "Every little helps," he said, adding: "Now all we need is for four or five of them to go down with flu during the morning."

More seriously, MacDonald was glad of the relief of two weeks' break from League action because of the postponement of last Saturday's card to accommodate the home-based players in the Scotland squad. "Without doubt the rest helps. The pace has been a bit hectic and there are a lot of demands on players just now, so we hope that they will feel refreshed and revitalized."

The other alluring fixture takes place at Celtic, who may

not reach their 63,000 capacity but could well have Britain's biggest crowd of the day against Aberdeen. The champions have had a miserable start to their season and morale has not been helped by the news that Peter Grant has contracted a debilitating virus and will be unable to enforce his presence in midfield for an indefinite period.

Reports that McAvennie is unsettled and wishes to return to London surfaced again this week and angered the Celtic manager, Billy McNeill, who said: "Frank is a Celtic player and will remain a Celtic player. He signed a long contract and as far as I am concerned he is going to honour it."

On a less contentious note, McNeill pointed out that despite Celtic's indifferent form the club had provided seven players for the Scottish World Cup and under-21 squads which travelled to Norway earlier in the week and believes that the men involved will benefit from the release from domestic pressure.

Aberdeen travelled south to Glasgow last night and wait only for a fitness test on Simpson, who was not injured in the Scotland squad because of a hamstring injury. Alex Smith, Aberdeen's joint manager, was in buoyant mood yesterday and when it was suggested that the club's record of drawing every League game this season pointed to another split decision against Celtic, he replied:

"At the worst, I think, we have drawn five games and I felt we should have won four of them so it has to come right one day and I feel we are ready to push ahead now."

Glamorgan crumble as title goes to Worcestershire

By John Woodcock

WORCESTER: Worcestershire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (4) by an innings and 76 runs. Worcestershire duly won the Britannic Assurance county championship at Worcester yesterday, sweeping Glamorgan's remaining resistance aside once the pitch, vandalized during the night, had been restored to a playable condition. Glamorgan were bowled out in their second innings for 103 runs.

It is Worcestershire's fourth title, the others having come in 1964, 1965 and 1975, and it just a little of the gloss was taken away by what had happened to the pitch, nobody could claim that it affected the result. Hick's innings on Thursday had made absolutely sure, weather permitting, that Worcestershire would win.

In answer to criticism of the pitches at New Road this season, much of it fully justified, Worcestershire can point to their record on other grounds. They have been just as successful away from home. Of their 10 victories, only four were at Worcester.

Surrey used to make a similar submission in the 1950s, when their numerous championships coincided with inferior Oval pitches. I still have a slightly aggrieved letter from the late Jim Laker

Top of the table

	P	W	L	D	BT	BB	Pts
Worcestershire	22	10	3	9	55	75	290
Leicestershire	22	10	3	7	57	72	289
Essex	21	8	5	8	51	69	268

illustrating that he and Tony Lock were at least as successful away from Kennington as they were there.

Ten years ago 19 championships hundreds were scored on the Worcester ground. This year there were eight — four by Hick and one each from Martin Crowe, Curtis, Neale and Moxon. Any chance there may have been of another yesterday was virtually removed by an injury to Maynard. Suffering from a badly bruised foot, he came in at No. 7 with a runner.

Between noon, when the blow driers had done their stuff and the match could restart, and one o'clock, Worcestershire extended their first innings from 380 to six to 423 all out. If Thomas, bowling to the relevant end, was trying to hit the soiled area, he was not conspicuously successful; but the days are nearly over when bowlers at practice lay down targets at which to aim.

In just over two hours after lunch Glamorgan were bowled out. Of their more experienced players, Butcher

was caught at short leg off Dilley and Holmes at second slip after making a breezy 33; Thomas drove his second ball to wide mid-off and Derrick was beautifully caught at third slip by Curtis. Even on one leg, Maynard made the best strokes of the day.

For Worcestershire, Newport rounded off what has been a great season for him with five wickets, and soon after four o'clock Neale, the winning captain, was waving to a large, happy and mercifully sober crowd. The only other cricketer to have led a championship-winning side in his benefit year was Norman Gifford, when he, too, was captaining Worcestershire. I doubt, though, whether a teacher of Russian has ever done so before.

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 244 (M P Maynard 65; N V Radford 4 for 84).
Second Innings
A R Butcher c Newport b Dilley 9
P A Gonyaw b Radford 9
P G P Radford c Newport b Dilley 1
G C Holmes c Hick b Newport 33
M J Cann c Rhodes b Newport 9
J G Thomas c Neale b Newport 19
M P Maynard b Newport 16
J Derrick c Curtis b Newport 0
T C P Jackson c and b Newport 0
S Bassen c Leathardale b Newport 10
Extras (lb 1, lb 2, w 2) 4
Total 423

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-14, 3-24, 4-56, 5-58, 6-72, 7-72, 8-80, 9-80.
BOWLING: Dilley 8-30-2; Radford 8-2-16-1; Newport 10-2-25-5; Weston 5-1-14-0; Newport 4-2-1-0-2.

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings
T S Curtis b Thomas 8
G A Hick b Derrick 32
G A Hick c sub b Thomas 107
D A Leathardale c Matson b Bassen 4
P A Neale c Radford b Cann 29
M J Weston c Bassen b Cann 2
J S Rhodes c Thomas b Watson 26
P J Newport c Matson b Thomas 25
R K Newport c sub b Derrick 16
N V Radford not out 10
G R Dilley b Derrick 5
Extras (lb 5, lb 21, w 2, lb 6) 34
Total 423
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-101, 3-110, 4-253, 5-263, 6-342, 7-382, 8-386, 9-417.
BOWLING: Thomas 36-4-130-3; Warton 32-6-91-1; Derrick 32-7-91-3; Bassen 25-5-95-1; Cann 8-2-20-2.
Score after 100 overs: 314-5.
Umpires: B Durlston and B Leadbeater.

New Woman

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OUT NOW

OLYMPICS GUIDE

Faster, higher, stronger...



Run wild: Morocco's Said Aouita, capable of dominating all distances between 800 and 10,000 metres, arrives at the Games unbeaten in more than 50 consecutive flat races

Today in Seoul, the athletes of 161 nations begin the competitive business of the XXIVth Olympiad.



Steffi Graf: taking tennis into the Olympic arena

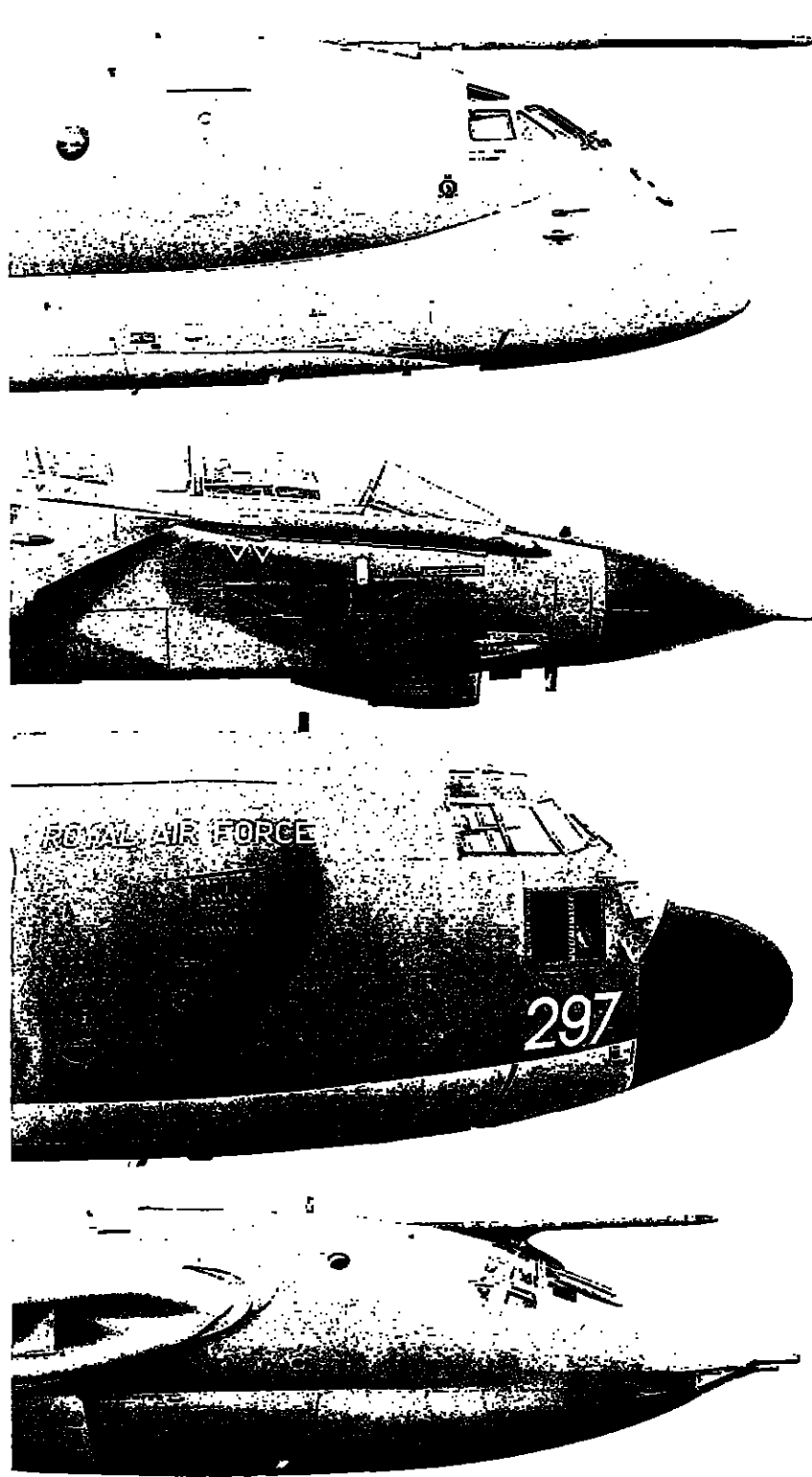
Looking forward to the first Games free of significant boycott since Munich in 1972, David Miller believes that the South Koreans have the technology, the facilities and the will to create an outstandingly successful event



Sean Kerly: hockey may appeal to armchair fans



Virginia Leng: will a gold follow silver and bronze?



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OLYMPICS GUIDE

...in search of golden glory

The Olympic Games, still the greatest show on earth, are here again. For those of you with the stamina and enthusiasm to watch television through the night, or for those fortunate as I am to be here in this teeming, technologically marvellous city, we are entering the most varied and the most competitive 16 days of sport in history.

For one am not agog to see whether the United States finish first, second or third in the medals table in the first wholly representative Games since 1972, virtually free of boycott and with 161 nations. After the chauvinistic behaviour of ABC Television, and some Americans, in Los Angeles four years ago — when, in the absence of most socialist countries, the United States won 83 gold medals — I would happily see them finish fourth. They were third, remember, in 1976.

Frankly, it does not matter. The beauty, the drama and the emotion of the Olympic Games are, or should be, about individuals: the stars, known and unknown, probable and improbable, that we hope to be writing about over the next two weeks.

Christa Luding, for instance, the East German cyclist, aged 28, will attempt to become the first woman and only the second Olympian to win gold medals in both winter and summer Olympics (Eddie Eagan of America, who won the light-heavyweight boxing title in 1920, was in the winning four-man bobs team in 1932).

Luding began life as a figure-skater, switched to speed skating at 14, and started cycling for summer training at 17. She won the 500 metres speed skating event at Sarajevo in 1984 and the 1,000 metres title in Calgary. Here, after 16 national cycling championships, she will go for the 200 metres sprint, in which she won the world title in 1986.

It is, of course, inevitable that many of the champions commanding the headlines will be from sports-orientated Eastern Europe, but not all.

Scandinavia, which per capita wins more medals than any other region in the world, will be looking to two exceptional old stagers: Partti Karppinen, of Finland, attempting his fourth consecutive gold medal in the single sculls, and Paul Elvstrom, of Denmark, win-

ner of the first of four sailing golds in 1948 and now hoping for a fifth, in the Tornado class, with his daughter, Trina.

Television, and the advent of Olga Korbut in 1972 in Munich, has done for gymnastics what it has done for snooker: though I regret that women's gymnastics, because of the same subliminal sexual appeal as in figure skating, gains more attention than the men's, whose strength and dexterity are prodigious. The remarkable Bilezzerchev, the Soviet world champion, is recovering from a broken leg but may still have a stern duel with Li Ning, of China.

Aurelia Dobre is the latest waif-like Romanian, aged 14 and a sudden and sensational all-round winner of last year's world championship, winning four disciplines out of six. Women's gymnastics was the first event of the Seoul Games to be a ticket sell-out, everyone impatient to see the fractional and arbitrary judging decisions which will separate Dobre, Elena Shoushounova, from the Soviet Union, Daniela Silivas, Dobre's 18-year-old colleague and European champion, and the 15-year-old Kristie Phillips, of the US.

It is doubtful if Phillips is another Mary Lou Retton, who defied the norm of less than seven per cent body fat, which delays puberty, retains flexibility and can surely not be beneficial for later life.

It is 60 years since women made their first appearance in the Games, at Amsterdam in 1928, yet only 20 years since the men who control the IOC graciously permitted them to run farther than half a mile. A tiny 18-year-old Korean schoolgirl, Kim Su Yong, hopes to be one of the host's gold medalists, in archery. The battle for Oriental supremacy between China, Japan and Korea will be as intense as that between the US, Soviet Union and East Germany.

The Koreans expect to win many medals — especially in boxing, judo and wrestling. The boxing squad, which in Los Angeles suffered, as did others, from the blatantly biased judging of US officials, is under the domain of Kim Sung Eun, a fearsome trainer who is not above administering discipline with the assistance of a rod across the backside.

The Korean women's hockey team, under a slightly more benign regime, hope to repeat their Asian



A generation on from Olga Korbut, Seoul awaits the exploits of the 14-year-old Romanian, Aurelia Dobre

Games triumph: while the men's event offers the prospect of a rare British team gold medal if they can maintain recent form. Ian Taylor in goal and Sean Kerly in attack are match-winners, though the Australians, World Cup winners in London two years ago, will obstruct the path.

Women's table tennis is another event that Koreans believe they may wrest from China — possibly thanks, in part, to the controversial decision by the Chinese coach

to drop He Zhi, the world singles champion, in favour of the less experienced Chen Jing.

Swimming, I have to admit, is something of a closed door to me, and one I am not pressing to open. Swimmers, unless they are out of the water, are without character: invisible, measurable by nothing more than the clock. Divers, on the other hand, like the inestimable Greg Louganis, who will be defending his Los Angeles titles under pressure from China, you

can see and appreciate.

However, the swimming fraternity will be attentively awaiting the bid of the American, Matt Biondi, to emulate Mark Spitz's necklace of gold medals. And it would be a moment for great celebration if Sylvia Poll were to defeat the mechanical Kristin Otto, of East Germany, for Puerto Rico's first medal at anything.

Tennis, a controversial re-entry into the Olympic orbit, will give us Steffi Graf and Stefan Edberg



Britain's Malcolm Cooper, giving it his best shot

playing for the sheer privilege of the honour rather than money. And athletics? There is such a profusion of potentially memorable contests that it is hard to know which in prospect to prefer: those of the women are no less fascinating than the men's. Florence Griffith Joyner's 100 metres world record of 10.49sec, allied to her stunningly feline physique, has made her a figure as photogenic as Carl Lewis and Ben Johnson, world record holders past and present, who resume their rivalry, with Lewis seemingly having the upper hand again. How many medals Lewis can win is perhaps less interesting than whether he will beat Bob Beamon's long jump record.

Not merely because she is British, Liz McColgan's meteoric pace in the 10,000 metres will provide a riveting half-hour against the renowned Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, and Olga Bondarenko, of the Soviet Union; while Yvonne Murray, another resolute Scot, will be one of those contesting Mary Slaney's attempt at the 3,000 metres gold medal, which she thought was hers four years ago until she hustled Zola Budd from behind and paid the penalty. For all Slaney's bitter, unwarranted reaction in Los Angeles, her talent deserves an Olympic crown to conclude her career: at either 3,000 or 1,500 metres.

But Reynolds in the 400 metres must hope he has not left his world record peak on the track at Zurich and should get his revenge on Thomas Schönlebe, the East German world champion from Rome last year. The 800 metres is difficult to judge until we know who is running; Joaquim

Cruz, with injury, seems unlikely ever to repeat his 1984-85 form and the favourite may be his compatriot José Luis Barbosa.

But Said Aouita, the most versatile runner of all time, should not be discounted. The 1,500 metres seems his for the taking until Steve Cram is wholly recovered from his strain, which must be doubtful. For the second time in an Olympic year Cram has, it would seem, been running too many high-level races before the Games.

Ed Moses can make history with a third gold medal. I recall interviewing him on the training track in Montreal in 1976 before the public became aware of this exceptional hurdler, and 12 years on, incredibly, he must still be the favourite: a reflection of both his talent and the relative lack of depth in the event.

Sydney Maree, for long the nearly-man of athletics, has the finishing speed and form to win the 5,000 metres, but the 10,000 should be the long-distance race. Can Eamonn Martin, the revelation of the season, hold off the posse of Arturo Barrios (Mexico), Hansjörg Kunze (East Germany), Francesco Panetta, the Italian world champion, and Dionisio Castro (Portugal)?

The Brits to follow in other sports? Take your pick from Sharon Rendle (judo), Virginia Leng (three-day event), Richard Phelps (modern pentathlon), Malcolm Cooper (defending small-bore champion), Neil Adams (judo), Andy Holmes and Steve Redgrave (coxed or coxless pairs), Andy Jameson (100 metres butterfly), Stuart Childerley (Finn yacht), or Colin Sturgess (4,000 metres cycle pursuit).

FULL GUIDE TO THE WEEK IN SEOUL

Today
The women's platform diving begins with the Chinese, led by the acrobatic Xu Yanyan, challenged by Elena Miroshina, of the Soviet Union, who is the European champion, and the two Americans, Michael Mitchell, second in 1984, and Wendy Lian Williams.

Television
BBC1: 00.55-05.00, 08.00-17.00.
ITV: 11.30-13.00, 16.15-16.45, 17.15-17.45.
CB: 08.00-09.00, 22.15-02.00 (tomorrow).

Programme
BASKETBALL: 03.30 and 12.30, men: preliminary rounds.
BOXING: 01.00, preliminary rounds.
DIVING: 06.00 and 10.00, women: platform preliminary rounds.
FOOTBALL: 08.00 and 10.00, preliminary rounds.
VOLLEYBALL: 07.30 and 09.30, men: preliminary matches.

Tomorrow
Britain, surprising but deserved bronze medal winners in 1984, play their opening game against South Korea. The Koreans have been in full-time training and could present Britain a genuine challenge. Ian Taylor (who carried the flag at the opening ceremony) will be one of the players.

Television
BBC1: 00.15-02.30 (live), 06.30-08.55, 10.00-12.05, 22.55-02.00 (includes cricket).
BBC2: 13.05-18.40 (includes cricket).
ITV: 12.00-13.00, 16.00-17.00.
CB: 07.00 (live), 07.00-08.55, 23.30-07.00 (Monday).

Programme
BASKETBALL: 12.45, 02.45, 10.30, 12.30, men: preliminary rounds.
BOXING: 01.00 and 10.00, preliminary rounds.
CYCLING: 08.00, men: 100km time trial final.
DIVING: 06.00, women: platform final.
FOOTBALL: 08.00 and 10.00, preliminary rounds.
GYMNASICS: 02.00, 05.30 and 11.30, men: compulsory exercises.
HOCKEY: Men: Preliminary rounds: 00.00, 04.00, 08.00, 12.00, 16.00, 20.00, 24.00, 28.00, 32.00, 36.00, 40.00, 44.00, 48.00, 52.00, 56.00, 60.00, 64.00, 68.00, 72.00, 76.00, 80.00, 84.00, 88.00, 92.00, 96.00, 100.00, 104.00, 108.00, 112.00, 116.00, 120.00, 124.00, 128.00, 132.00, 136.00, 140.00, 144.00, 148.00, 152.00, 156.00, 160.00, 164.00, 168.00, 172.00, 176.00, 180.00, 184.00, 188.00, 192.00, 196.00, 200.00, 204.00, 208.00, 212.00, 216.00, 220.00, 224.00, 228.00, 232.00, 236.00, 240.00, 244.00, 248.00, 252.00, 256.00, 260.00, 264.00, 268.00, 272.00, 276.00, 280.00, 284.00, 288.00, 292.00, 296.00, 300.00, 304.00, 308.00, 312.00, 316.00, 320.00, 324.00, 328.00, 332.00, 336.00, 340.00, 344.00, 348.00, 352.00, 356.00, 360.00, 364.00, 368.00, 372.00, 376.00, 380.00, 384.00, 388.00, 392.00, 396.00, 400.00, 404.00, 408.00, 412.00, 416.00, 420.00, 424.00, 428.00, 432.00, 436.00, 440.00, 444.00, 448.00, 452.00, 456.00, 460.00, 464.00, 468.00, 472.00, 476.00, 480.00, 484.00, 488.00, 492.00, 496.00, 500.00, 504.00, 508.00, 512.00, 516.00, 520.00, 524.00, 528.00, 532.00, 536.00, 540.00, 544.00, 548.00, 552.00, 556.00, 560.00, 564.00, 568.00, 572.00, 576.00, 580.00, 584.00, 588.00, 592.00, 596.00, 600.00, 604.00, 608.00, 612.00, 616.00, 620.00, 624.00, 628.00, 632.00, 636.00, 640.00, 644.00, 648.00, 652.00, 656.00, 660.00, 664.00, 668.00, 672.00, 676.00, 680.00, 684.00, 688.00, 692.00, 696.00, 700.00, 704.00, 708.00, 712.00, 716.00, 720.00, 724.00, 728.00, 732.00, 736.00, 740.00, 744.00, 748.00, 752.00, 756.00, 760.00, 764.00, 768.00, 772.00, 776.00, 780.00, 784.00, 788.00, 792.00, 796.00, 800.00, 804.00, 808.00, 812.00, 816.00, 820.00, 824.00, 828.00, 832.00, 836.00, 840.00, 844.00, 848.00, 852.00, 856.00, 860.00, 864.00, 868.00, 872.00, 876.00, 880.00, 884.00, 888.00, 892.00, 896.00, 900.00, 904.00, 908.00, 912.00, 916.00, 920.00, 924.00, 928.00, 932.00, 936.00, 940.00, 944.00, 948.00, 952.00, 956.00, 960.00, 964.00, 968.00, 972.00, 976.00, 980.00, 984.00, 988.00, 992.00, 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OLYMPICS GUIDE

British tradition in safe hands

From Jenny MacArthur
Seoul

Since 1948 there have been only two occasions when the British have failed to win an Olympic equestrian medal. The first was in Montreal in 1976, the second in Moscow four years later when the equestrian teams joined the Western boycott.

In Seoul, providing their horses stay fit and sound, the record looks set to improve. The show jumpers and three-day eventers, who have had decisive wins in the two European championships since Los Angeles, could even match their Munich result, their best joint tally to date. At those Olympics they won gold medals in the three-day event team and individual (Richard Meade on Laurieston) competitions and an individual silver medal in the show jumping (Ann Moore on Psalm).

There have been no equestrian Olympic gold medals since then, but the three-day event team came close in Los Angeles when taking the silver medal behind the United States after the closest finish in the history of the Olympic three-day event.

In Seoul, the British three-day event team is determined to avenge that defeat. Virginia Leng, the world and European champion and Olympic individual bronze medal winner, and Ian Stark, the European individual silver medal winner, are the only members of the Los Angeles team competing this year. They have a powerful supporting cast in Mark Phillips and Cartier, who were twelfth at last year's European championships, and either Karen Straker with Get Smart or Lorna Clarke with Fearliath Mor. The choice of selectors will have to make this weekend between the latter two riders for the fourth team place is not an enviable one.

Although Leng is widely tipped for individual honours it will be a supreme achievement if she succeeds. In Los Angeles she was riding the experienced Priceless (now retired), who had already won team gold medals at two championships. Master Craftsman, her ride in Seoul, is only eight and has competed in only two advanced international events.

Stark, who has been in every championship team since 1984, has a more realistic chance of an individual medal providing his only horse, Sir Watney, remains fit and sound. The 11-year-old gelding, who won his second Badminton in May, is easily the most experienced horse in the team.

Although the United States, fielding two riders from its gold-medal winning team (Bruce



A clear case for a medal: Nick Skelton and Apollo, whose hopes are riding high in the show jumping event (Photograph: Stuart Franklin)

Davidson and Karen Stives), will again be a major threat for the gold medal. It is New Zealand who are likely to pose the biggest challenge to Britain. Their team is led by Mark Todd and Charisma, who confirmed their status as favourites for a second successive individual gold medal with a superb win at the British Open at Gatcombe last month.

In the show jumping competition the United States, who won the gold medal in Los Angeles with almost disdainful ease, will have a much tougher battle on their hands. Britain, Canada, France, Switzerland, and The Netherlands are all fielding strong teams well able to win a medal.

The strength of the United States team, which includes last year's World Cup winners, Katherine Bursdall and The Natural,

lies in its depth in horses. Joe Fargis is set to defend his individual gold medal with Touch of Class but should be off-form — as she was at last year's World Cup final — he has a powerful reserve horse in Mill Pearl.

The British team, although short on reserve horses, is twice the strength of the one which won the silver medal at Los Angeles.

The former professional riders, Malcolm Pyrah, David Broome, and Nick Skelton, are all competing having become eligible under last year's IOC ruling. If their three horses — Towerlands Anglezarke, Countryman and Apollo, together with Jo Turri's Kruger — all find their best form, they can match the United States.

For the individual competition, which takes place in the main Olympic stadium on the last day,

there are two clear favourites, the European champion, Pierre Durand, of France, with Jappeloup, and the Canadian, Ian Millar, with Big Ben, the winners of the team and individual gold medal at last year's Pan-American Games. Britain's best hope lies with Skelton and Apollo, who have been in outstanding form this season.

The Olympic dressage event is set to be the most competitive since 1972. The West Germans, led by Reiner Klimke and Alerich, the defending individual gold medal winners, will have to reckon with the powerful Swiss team which finished only three points behind them at last year's European championships. Britain has never won an Olympic dressage medal and is unlikely to do so in Seoul.

Reunited with the family after 64 years

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent



Steffi Graf and Stefan Edberg, the Wimbledon champions, who won the 21-and-under Olympic

demonstration event four years ago, will be the top seeds at Seoul, where the draws will be made tomorrow. After 64 years tennis returns to the Games as a fully fledged medal sport.

With Graf and Edberg at the top of the draws, and Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) and Vijay Amritraj (India) carrying the flags for their respective countries, Olympic tennis will have attractive icing on a commonplace cake.

Some celebrities disapprove of Olympic tennis and others are apathetic. Mats Wilander and Andres Gomez are the latest players to defect from a field much weaker than the International Tennis Federation (ITF) hoped to attract. Many competitors at Seoul will be less interested in playing tennis than in watching the athletics and soaking up the general ambience of the Games.

Such attitudes may have terminal consequences. Philippe Chatrier, president of the ITF, admits that to some extent tennis is still on trial, that its inclusion as a full medal event "is on an experimental basis." He must be worried by his failure to attract whole-hearted support.

Chatrier finds it difficult to understand why others do not share his enthusiasm for Olympic tennis and his belief that it can have a "tremendous impact" on the game's development.

The "impact" Chatrier is talking about concerns those countries — he cites the resurgence of tennis in the Soviet Union — in which sports need the government backing that only Olympic status can attract.

The opposing case was summed up by a prominent official of the United States Tennis Association who suggested a week or so ago that it was "demeaning" for tennis to return to the Olympics.

This widely held opinion is based on the fact that the Olympics stand now — uneasily poised between amateurism, shamateurism, and professionalism — where tennis stood 20 years ago. Tennis has moved on from all that. But tennis and the Olympics never meant much to each other; and the estrangement has widened since 1924.

The best player in the world, Wilander, is a sensible, straightforward man. He and like-minded

critics have been puzzled by what they see as an illogical marriage between tennis and the Games. Why not bring in golf, snooker, and motor racing?

Wilander toyed with the idea of playing, not because the Olympic tournament meant anything to him, but because (like many others) he fancied the idea of going to the Games and getting an unfamiliar stamp on his passport. The formal reason for his withdrawal is leg trouble, but one suspects that his conscience gave him even more trouble.

Spectators will include two links with the last Olympic tournament: Kitty Godfree, aged 91, and Jean Borotra, 90, who won medals in Paris in 1924.

Tennis is a minor event at the Olympics and the Olympic tournament is a minor event in tennis. Competitors will be part players and part tourists. The draws will be patchy in quality, but the inclusion of players from 40 nations compares favourably with other Olympic sports.

The tournament will last from September 20 to October 1. The men's singles has a draw of 64 and the doubles a draw of 32, compared with 48 and 14 in the women's tournament. In all events, beaten semi-finalists will receive bronze medals.

Britain's best chance of a medal may lie with Jeremy Bates and Andrew Castle in the doubles. Competitors will also include the brothers Emilio and Javier Sanchez and their sister, Arantxa, the sisters Manuela and Katerina Maleeva, and a husband and wife, Robert and Carling Seguso. All part of the Olympic family.

PROGRAMME

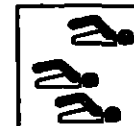
September 20 and 21: Men's singles, first round. September 21 and 22: Women's singles, first round. September 22: Men's singles, second round. September 23: Men's doubles, first round; women's singles, second round. September 24: Men's singles, third round; women's singles, second round; women's doubles, first round. September 25: Men's doubles, second round; women's singles, third round. September 26: Men's singles, quarter-finals; women's doubles, quarter-finals. September 27: Men's doubles, quarter-finals; women's singles, quarter-finals. September 28: Men's singles, semi-finals; women's doubles, semi-finals. September 29: Men's doubles, semi-finals; women's singles, semi-finals. September 30: Men's singles, final; women's doubles, final. October 1: Men's doubles, final; women's singles, final.

BRITISH TEAM

MEN'S SINGLES: J. Bates. WOMEN'S DOUBLES: J. Bates and A. Castle. WOMEN'S SINGLES: S. Gomer, C. Wood.

Moorhouse's chance to fulfill golden promise

From Steven Downes, Seoul



A single gold medal has been Britain's best, and only rarely achieved, expectation in the Olympic pool in post-war years. That there should be two genuine gold prospects in Seoul, promises an exceptional aquatic Games for Britain.

Moorhouse could become Britain's first gold medal-winner of the Games if successful in his 100 metres breaststroke final on Monday. More important for Moorhouse, a gold would end a four-year period of immense promise which has too often been full of disappointment.

After being perhaps too strongly tipped for a medal four years ago, his fourth place in Los Angeles was cruelly criticised. Worse was to come at the 1986 world championship, when, moments after touching first, he discovered he had been disqualified. "I could cope with that, though," Moorhouse now reflects, "because at least I knew I was the best."

There is even more now to indicate Moorhouse's premiership: top of the world rankings after winning the United States winter championship in March, the European champion and record-holder also became the first man to break 60 seconds for the event in a short-course pool.

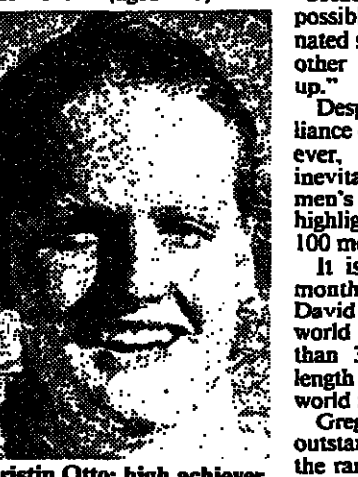
Perhaps mindful of the disappointment of 1984, he has been playing down his chances, but he does admit, "I'm fitter than I've ever been before," significant since his time in the "off-season" of March has remained nearly two-thirds better than anything swum subsequently by Schroeder, of the US, or the Soviets, Volkov and Mal'nev. Jameson's college stay in Arizona has brought about his relatively rapid transformation from the Commonwealth backstroke medal-winner of 1982 into the European and US winter champion at 100 metres butterfly.

His final will be one of the highlights of the Games, pitting him against the reigning champion, Michael Gross, the West German "wallbasher", and Matt Biondi, America's

new Mark Spitz, the man who eliminated the world record-holder, Pablo Morales, in the US trials.

There are also other chances of medals with Nick Gillingham and Kevin Boyd, and also in the men's medley relay (given a reasonable backstroke leg). Gillingham's fourth ranking in the 200 metres breaststroke is deceptive, since it was achieved while the Birmingham man was suffering from tonsillitis. He is confident that, at the very least, he will erase David Wilkie's 12-year-old time from the British record books. In the 1,500 metres freestyle Boyd should make the final.

That, however, will be the extent of the ambitions of most of the British team, particularly the women's squad. Indeed, for Britons like June Croft (aged 25) and



Kristin Otto: high achiever

Maggie Hohmann (32 the day before her 100 metres breaststroke heats), best times for their second careers, after retirements, are their goals. The East Germans, in their first Olympics for eight years, are determined to confirm the dominance they showed when winning 13 of 16 world titles two years ago. Whoever, of Kristin Otto and Heike Friedrich, wins the most medals will undoubtedly be hailed as the successor to Kornelia Ender.

Against the amazons of East Germany, the Americans' main weapon will be Janet Evans, aged 17 and just 5ft 5in, but with a giant's reputation. Her 400 and 800 metres freestyle world records had

Wolfgang Richter, East Germany's head coach, admit: "She is the one woman swimmer we fear."

But Richter will have also been looking eastwards for opposition. American and East German coaches making six-month coach education tours in China have helped to produce Wenyi Yang, Fujie Xia, Yong Zhuang (sprint freestyles) and Xiaomin Huang (200 metres breaststroke) at the top of the rankings.

The wider influences in world swimming are acknowledged by Matt Biondi. Biondi has been selected to swim seven events in Seoul, and is the man all America expects to emulate Spitz's seven gold feats in Munich 16 years ago. "I do not even imagine doing that myself," Biondi warns, "because I don't think it is possible. Americans dominated swimming then, but the other countries have caught up."

Despite the individual brilliance of Michael Gross, however, the Americans will inevitably again dominate the men's events, one of the highlights of which will be the 100 metres backstroke. It is in that event at last month's US trials which David Berkoff stunned the world by swimming more than 35 metres of the first length underwater to set the world record.

Greg Louganis, the world's outstanding diver, could join the ranks of Olympic legends if he again wins both platform and springboard events, where Robert Morgan, the bronze medal-winner in the European Cup this year, is the best British hope.

In the first full water polo tournament at the Olympics in 12 years (where Britain will not be represented), the old order of Hungary, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia should again dominate.

The synchronized swimming should again be the territory of women from the other side of the Atlantic, either American or Canadian. Inevitably, the focus of the first week in Seoul will be on the 50-metre pool: the hope is that Moorhouse and Jameson turn it into Britain's golden pond.

With each event we detail the world record, and when it was set, the holder of the Olympic title, the six best performances this year (by competitors taking part in Seoul), and the best performances by the British representatives.

MEN

50m freestyle

Final: September 24
World Record
22.18 Peter Williams (SA)
1988

100m freestyle

Final: September 22
World Record
48.42 Matt Biondi (US)
1988

200m freestyle

Final: September 19
World Record
1:47.44 Michael Gross (WG)
1984

400m freestyle

Final: September 23
World Record
3:47.38 Artur Wojdat (Pol)
1988

1,500m freestyle

Final: September 25
World Record
14:54.76 Vladimir Salnikov (USSR)
1983

100m backstroke

Final: September 24
World Record
1:22.31 Nick Hodgson (US)
1988

200m ind medley

Final: September 25
World Record
2:00.56 Tamas Darnyi (Hun)
1987

200m backstroke

Final: September 22
World Record
2:00.44 Frank Battistoni (WG)
1988

400m ind medley

Final: September 23
World Record
4:15.42 Tamas Darnyi (Hun)
1987

4 x 100m freestyle

Final: September 21
World Record
7:13.10 West Germany
1987

4 x 200m freestyle

Final: September 25
World Record
13:38.28 United States 1985
Holders: United States 13:39.30
1988

200m breaststroke

Final: September 19
World Record
2:13.34 Victor Davis (Can)
1984

100m butterfly

Final: September 21
World Record
1:57.58 Michael Gross (WG)
1988

200m ind medley

Final: September 25
World Record
2:00.56 Tamas Darnyi (Hun)
1987

200m backstroke

Final: September 22
World Record
2:00.44 Frank Battistoni (WG)
1988

400m ind medley

Final: September 23
World Record
4:15.42 Tamas Darnyi (Hun)
1987

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OLYMPICS GUIDE

Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, relishes the prospect of some of the finest competition in the history of the sport

Where all that glisters is gold

Seoul

Amid the revels of the opening ceremony in Seoul's magnificent stadium here earlier today, and the expectation of the greatest athletics show on earth, the case of Javier Sotomayor is a salutary one. The Cuban has done the only thing possible to broadcast his excellence on the verge of the Olympic Games. He broke the world high jump record, with 2.43 metres last week. But Sotomayor will not be competing in the Games, because his country is boycotting them.

If Yvonne Murray's considered opinion has any universality, then we can safely assume that Sotomayor would gladly exchange that world record simply for the opportunity to compete for Olympic gold. Murray, in the best form of her life, and preparing for the women's 3,000 metres on the opening day, reflected on her numerous Scottish records this week. "When I was younger, it

excited me to set a record, but I'd swap them all for medals now."

It may seem ridiculously unfair — and a Henry Rono 10 years ago — with four world records, two still extant, is a better example than Sotomayor — but on only one appointed day every four years can an athlete challenge for the ultimate prize in the sport.

Yet it is accepted, by Steve Cram, for one, "You can win titles, and set world records, but if you don't win an Olympic gold medal in the event you set yourself as best in, then you've got to be disappointed."

Behind that remark lies the weight of 3,000 years, the knowledge that this all goes back to at least 776BC, albeit with a rather

long break of some 15 centuries, from the corruption of the competitive ideal when the Olympics were discontinued in 373AD, until the resurrection with the Games of the modern era in 1896.

There are still some things we have not got right, like the ancient Olympic truce, which would have cleared up the little matter of the previous and far bigger boycotts, notably in 1980 and 1984.

But, as Edwin Moses said this week, there will probably always be someone boycotting. And he said that with no small sympathy for both Sotomayor and Belanyah Dinsamo, of Ethiopia, the other world-record breaker this year, in the marathon. Had it not been for Jimmy Carter's Afghan "initia-

live" in 1980, Moses would be on the verge of his fourth rather than his third gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles.

There are those who think that a terminal case of corruption has set in again with professionalism. But "amateur" athletics were always an aristocratic confidence trick. And those critics should enjoy the irony that the Olympic winner's medal, which is all he or she receives on the day, is in the ancient Olympic Games, the "bread" comes afterwards.

It was the "circus" events, added to the ancient Games programme, which provoked its dissolution. The fear nowadays is over drugs. If something can be done about that, and as long as

there is top-class competition with suspense building up throughout successive rounds — the substantial advantage over the independent circuit — then the modern Games can extend to at least a millennium too.

Cram's earlier quote introduced the additional factor of a favoured event, which for him is the 1,500 metres. He is trying to cover as many possibilities as he can, by entering the 800 metres as well.

But still his task is formidable. For, in both races he must face a man, Said Auita, whose already considerable claim to being the best runner in the history of the sport would only be underlined by his winning both titles.

Cram holds a slight advantage, for he has never been beaten by

the Moroccan in a race where he has kept on his feet (Cram fell during the mile, won by Auita, in 1984).

The pair's titles and world records alone would make these two events among the most fascinating in the Games. But with Joaquim Cruz, the defending 800 metres champion, coming back to his best form in three years, and running both events, and the too-often underrated Peter Elliott, then we could see competitive races to emulate anything in the Games of the 23 preceding Olympiads.

The success of the world championships, inaugurated in 1983, may have provoked the International Olympic Committee to keep the boycott down, in

athletics terms, to Cuba and Ethiopia, who have backed North Korea's claims to be part of the programme. And there has been the substantial effect of the grand prix circuits also. It has helped eliminate the surprise element.

So perhaps has the return, after boycotts, of several strong nations. The three gold medals in Los Angeles in 1984 for British athletes, Sebastian Coe (1,500 metres), Daley Thompson (decathlon), and Tessa Sanderson (javelin) would hardly have been threatened by dissident nationals. But some of the seven silvers and six bronzes won by Britons will be hard to emulate.

Yet among the medal contenders should be Cram, Thompson, Sanderson, Murray, Liz McColeman, Colin Jackson, Eamon Martin, Fatima Whitbread, Linford Christie, Jack Buckner, Derek Redmond, Marc Rowland, Charlie Spedding, Dave Oatley, Mike Hill, and the men's 4 x 400 metres team.

The Times guide to the Olympic athletics events provides the world record and when it was set in each event, and the holder of the Olympic title from Los Angeles four years ago with the athlete's winning performance. That is followed by the leading six performances in the world this year by athletes taking part in Seoul and the performances of the British Olympic representatives. Pat Butcher also gives his assessment of the key events

(Note: a = high altitude performance; i = indoor performance)

MEN

100m

Final: September 24
World record
9.83, Ben Johnson (Can) 1987
Holder: Carl Lewis (US) 9.99
Best of 1988
9.97 Carl Lewis (US)
9.98 (a) Ben Johnson (Can)
9.99 (a) Robinson da Silva (Br)
10.03 Dennis Mitchell (US)
10.04 Chidi Inoh (Nig)
British
10.07 Linford Christie
10.31 John Regis
10.48 Barrington Williams
Carl Lewis has a better chance than any of his predecessors of successfully defending the 100 metres title, and thus becoming the first man to do so. Ben Johnson's early season injury has left the Canadian some way from the form which took him to his sixth successive victory over Lewis, and a world record of 9.83 seconds in the world championships last year. Lewis stopped the rot in Zurich last month by beating Johnson, as did Calvin Smith, who did it again five days later in Cologne. That sent Johnson back to Canada to try and retrieve the situation. These three look to be the medal contenders, and Linford Christie will do well to deflect any of them.

200m

Final: September 28
WR: 19.72 (a) Pietro Mennea (It) 1979
Holder: Carl Lewis (US) 19.80
19.82 (a) Carl Lewis (US)
19.96 Joe DeLoach (US)
20.04 (a) Robinson da Silva (Br)
20.20 Ake Mbatia (Ken)
20.25 (a) Gilles Quenheville (Fr)
British
20.32 John Regis
20.48 Linford Christie
20.77 Michael Rosewee

400m

Final: September 28
WR: 43.29 Butch Reynolds (US) 1988
Holder: Alberto Tomba (It) 44.27
29.29 Butch Reynolds (US)
43.98 Danny Everett (US)
44.11 Steve Lewis (US)
44.56 Mohamed Al Miskry (Oman)
44.62 (a) Thomas Schönbach (EG)
44.67 Derek Redmond (GB)
Other British
45.27 Todd Bennett
45.45 Brian White
Inexpensive last year's cost of entry for Reynolds in an adequate attempt at winning the world title. But he has since broken Lee Evans's long standing world record by over half a second, with 43.29sec. Thomas Schönbach, the world title holder, has not looked that good so far this year, but the East Germans are renowned for their capacity to "peak" at the right time. Danny Everett and Steve Lewis have the talent, but lack the experience of someone like Innocent Egbunike. Derek Redmond's impetuous start probably cost him a medal in Rome. But he has the will and capability to get one here.

800m

Final: September 26
WR: 1:41.73 Sebastian Coe (GB) 1981
Holder: Joaquim Cruz (Br)
1:43.00
1:43.05 John Gray (US)
1:43.20 José Luis Barbosa (Br)
1:43.42 Steve Cram (GB)
1:43.95 Said Auita (Mor)
1:44.06 Moussa Fall (Sen)
1:44.10 Vladimir Gerasimov (USSR)
Other British
1:44.19 Peter Elliott
1:45.05 Tom McKean

1,500m

Final: October 1
WR: 3:29.46 Said Auita (Mor) 1985
Holder: Sebastian Coe (GB)
3:32.43
3:30.95 Steve Cram (GB)
3:32.89 Said Auita (Mor)
3:32.94 Peter Herold (EG)
3:33.33 Steve Cram (GB)
3:33.55 Pat Scammell (AUS)
1:44.10 Vladimir Gerasimov (USSR)
Other British
1:44.19 Peter Elliott
1:45.05 Tom McKean

5,000m

Final: October 1
WR: 12:58.39 Said Auita (Mor) 1985
Holder: Said Auita (Mor)
13:05.59
13:15.62 José Regalo (Por)
13:15.65 Sydney Mearns (US)
13:18.19 Salvatore Antibo (It)
13:17.06 Yobes Ondieki (Ken)
13:17.14 John Doherty (Ire)
13:17.48 Pascal Thiebaut (Fr)
British
13:22.88 Eamon Martin
13:24.43 Jack Buckner
13:25.38 Gary Staines

10,000m

Final: September 26
WR: 27:13.81 Fernando Mamede (Por) 1984
Holder: Alberto Tomba (It)
27:47.54
27:48.00 Eamon Martin (GB)
27:48.79 Salvatore Antibo (It)
27:52.07 Arturo Barrios (Mex)
27:52.00 Hansjörg Kunze (EG)
27:53.14 Salvatore Antibo (It)
27:58.12 Ibrahim Bouayeb (Mor)
Other British
28:12.67 Mike McLeod
28:40.14 Steve Binn
A bout of malaria for Paul Kibet, who won the longer race so imperiously in Rome, has thrown that open. And Eamon Martin's first victory in Oslo has made him the favourite. Martin originally wanted to run only the 5,000 metres, where the absence of Auita, winner in Los Angeles, has also left an open race. Jose Regalo has looked very good in his 5,000 metre outings this year, and the two other Portuguese, the Castro twins, will figure in both races. Eamon Martin is gradually coming back to medal form, and the Irishman John Doherty and Frank O'Mara could feature, too. In the shorter race Anton Negul has not yet managed to bring his cross country form to the track as decisively. But the other Kenyans, Benjamín Wierande and Frank Tumul, cannot be discounted in the 10,000 metres.

Marathon

October 2
WR: 2:06:50 Belanyah Dinsamo (Eth) 1988
Holder: Carlos Lopes (Por) 2:09:21
2:07:07 Ahmed Salah (Dj)
2:08:02 Juma Kipanga (Tan)
2:08:43 Ibrahim Hussein (Ken)
2:08:47 Jörg Peter (EG)
2:08:49 Rob de Castella (Aus)
2:08:15 John Treacy (Ire)
British
2:10:52 Kevin Forster
2:11:33 Dave Long
2:12:28 Charlie Spedding
The event most likely to provide a surprise, as it did last year, when Douglas Wakiduru, a Kenyan, living in Japan, won the world title. His proximity to Seoul will give Wakiduru an additional edge. Likewise the Japanese, Takayuki Nakayama (who won the Asian Games marathon here two years ago) and Toshihiko Seko. The Ethiopian boycott means their three runners, all potential medal winners, are absent. But among the other known quantities, Ahmed Salah, Rob de Castella, Gellindo Bordin should figure. And silver and bronze medal winners last time, John Treacy and Charlie Spedding can presume to do the same.

3,000m

Final: September 30
WR: 8:05.4 Henry Rono (Ken) 1978
Holder: Julius Kori (Ken)
8:11.80
8:11.61 Peter Koch (Ken)
8:12.00 Patrick Sang (Ken)
8:15:71 Julius Kori (Ken)
8:16:01 Raymond Panier (Fr)
8:16:04 Francesco Panetta (It)
8:16:34 Mark Rowland (GB)
Other British
8:18:32 Eddie Wedderburn
8:18:51 Roger Hickory

100m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

5,000m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

10,000m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

200m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

400m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

800m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

1,500m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

5,000m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

10,000m

Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)



Best of British: Eamon Martin, in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

This is the event where the Kenyan cross country domination of recent years is manifesting itself on the track. The Kenyans are not great stylers. In fact, it is almost a great tradition not to be so. Remember Amos Biwott in Munich, who insisted on clearing the water as well on that jump. That expends an awful lot of energy, but he still had enough left to win. Peter Koch, Patrick Sang and Julius Kariuki, the three fastest men this year, have enough left over to win the 10,000 metres, the only men likely to incur being Francesco Panetta, the world champion, his Italian colleague Alessandro Lambruschini (best known for being the last man to beat Auita, in the Mediterranean Games steeplechase last year), Brian Abshire and Mark Rowland.

110m hurdles

Final: September 26
WR: 1:28.83 Ranaiah Nehemiah (US) 1981
Holder: Roger Kingdom (US)
1:32.00
1:29.97 Roger Kingdom (US)
1:31.11 (a) Colin Jackson (GB)
1:31.57 Ed Moses (US)
1:31.70 Tommie Campbell (US)
1:32.00 Aleksandr Markin (USSR)
1:32.01 Vladimir Shishkin (USSR)
Other British
1:34.09 Tony Jarrett
1:34.01 John Ridgeon
It has taken four years for Roger Kingdom to get back to the form which won him a surprise gold in Los Angeles. But he is looking a very safe bet to do so again. Colin Jackson is back on top of the surge in British hurdling, and his excellent competitive record makes him a strong silver medal favourite, with the impetus to attack King. Normally, the surprise in hurdling is people falling rather than unknowns coming through to win. So Tommie Campbell and Mark McKoy should be next in line for medals.

400m hurdles

Final: September 25
WR: 47.02 Ed Moses (US) 1983
Holder: Ed Moses (US) 47.75
47.57 Ed Moses (US)
47.58 Andre Phillips (US)
47.72 Kevin Young (US)
48.23 Harald Schmid (WGer)
48.42 Amadou Dia Sa (Sen)
48.55 Edgar It (WGer)
British
48.67 Kris Akabusi
50.01 Phil Harris
50.03 Max Robertson
It is too much to hope that the final will produce anything like the world championships last year when, after one of the most exciting finishes in athletics history, 0.02sec separated Ed Moses from Danny Harris and Harald Schmid. Moses had retained his unbeaten championship record after a season where he lost for the first time in almost 10 years. But he seems as good as ever this year while Harris, the man who ended that unbeaten run, has not quite, and Schmid is out of form. André

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Other British
8:18:32 Eddie Wedderburn
8:18:51 Roger Hickory

5,000m

Final: September 26
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Holder: Said Auita (Mor)
13:05.59
13:15.62 José Regalo (Por)
13:15.65 Sydney Mearns (US)
13:18.19 Salvatore Antibo (It)
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13:25.38 Gary Staines

10,000m

Final: September 26
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High jump

Final: September 25
WR: 2.43 Javier Sotomayor (Cub) 1988
Holder: Dietmar Mögenburg (WGer) 2.35
2.42 (a) Carlo Thränhardt (WGer)
2.38 (a) Patrick Späth (Swi)
2.37 (a) Dietmar Mögenburg (WGer)
2.37 Sorin Matei (Rom)
2.36 Rudolf Povarnitsyn (USSR)
2.36 Gennadiy Avdeyenko (USSR)
2.36 Igor Paldin (USSR)
British
2.29 Dalton Grant
2.28 Geoff Parsons
2.25 Roddy Anderson

Discus

Final: October 1
WR: 74.08 Jürgen Schult (EG) 1986
Holder: Rolf Dammberg (WGer) 66.60
70.46 Jürgen Schult (EG)
72.75 Ulf Timmermann (EG)
72.75 Werner Günthör (Swi)
72.75 Randy Barnes (US)
72.75 Mike Buncio (US)
72.75 Sergey Smirnov (USSR)
72.75 (a) Hemigius Machuca (Cz)
19.81 Paul Edwards

Hammer

Final: September 26
WR: 66.74 Yuriy Sedikh (USSR) 1986
Holder: Juhani Taininen (Fin) 78.08
85.14 Yuriy Sedikh (USSR)
84.16 Juri Taininen (Fin)
84.04 Sergey Litvinov (USSR)
84.04 Klaus Telfemeier (WGer)
84.04 Vladimir Litvinov (USSR)
84.04 Viktor Fiodorov (WGer)
61.16 Paul Marde

Javelin

Final: September 25
WR: 87.66 Jan Zelenzy (Cz) 1987
Holder: Arno Harkonen (Fin) 86.71
86.80 Jan Zelenzy (Cz)
86.80 Tapio Korjus (Fin)
86.80 Klaus Telfemeier (WGer)
86.80 Einar Viljansson (Ica)
84.14 Silvio Waskonek (EG)
84.04 Detlef Michel (EG)
British
81.51 Linda Kaugh
80.54 Dave Ostley
79.50 Roald Bradstock

Decathlon

September 28 and 29
WR: 8,847 Daley Thompson (GB) 1984
Holder: Daley Thompson (GB) 8,847
8,847 Christian Piazzi (Fr)
8,847 Valtter Kuvali (USSR)
8,498 Sigit Wenz (WGer)
8,447 Robert de Wit (Neth)
8,447 Alexander Apseychev (USSR)
8,415 Dave Steen (Can)
British
7,707 Alex Kruger
7,610 Greg Richards
7,510 Mick Hill
Daley Thompson's chances of adding a third successive Olympic title to the double distinction he shares with Bob Mathias (1948/52) do not look good. Thompson, ninth in the world championships last year — his first decathlon defeat in nine years — has not had one single performance at an individual event this season to suggest that he can string 10 together the way that he used to. Christian Piazzi's improvement in the last five years bolstered by his first place in the ranking lists makes him the favourite with last year's world championships winner, Torsten Voss.

Long jump

Final: September 26
WR: 8.90 (a) Bob Beamon (US) 1968
Holder: Carl Lewis (US) 8.54
8.74 Larry Myricks (US)
8.46 Leonid Voloshin (USSR)
8.44 Mike Powell (US)
8.34 Volodimir Chikan (USSR)
8.30 Andreas Steiner (Austria)
British
7.98 Stewart Faulkner
7.95 Mark Forsythe
7.91 John King

Triple jump

Final: September 24
WR: 17.97 Willie Banks (US) 1985
Holder: Al Joyner (US) 17.26
17.77 Kristof Markov (Bul)
17.59 Igor Lapshin (USSR)
17.68 Oleg Probenko (USSR)
17.53 Michail Mikulits (Cz)
17.47 Aleksandr Kovlenko (USSR)
17.13 Willie Banks (US)
British
17.12 John Herbert
16.75 Václav Samuels
16.74 Jon Edwards

Shot

Final: September 23
WR: 23.05 Ulf Timmermann (EG)

20km walk

September 23
WR: 1:18:40 Ernesto Canto (Mex) 1984
Holder: Ernesto Canto (Mex)
1:19:08 Mikhail Shchennikov (USSR)
1:19:16 Yevgeniy Misyulya (USSR)
1:19:23 Aleksey Parshin (USSR)
1:20:17 Pavel Blazek (Cz)
1:20:40 Ralf Kowalsky (EG)
British
1:23:31 Ian McCombie
1:23:45 Chris Maddocks

50km walk

September 30
WR: 3:38:17 Ronald Weigel (EG) 86
Holder: Paul Gonzalez (Mex)
3:42:33 Ronald Weigel (EG)
3:44:01 Vyacheslav Ivanenko (USSR)
3:47:27 Raffaele Ducceschi (It)
3:45:11 Aleksandr Potashov (USSR)
3:45:00 G. Gustafsson (Swe)
British
3:58:25 Les Morton
— Paul Blagg

4 x 100m relay

Final: October 1
WR: 37.69 United States 1984
Holder: United States 37.83
38.54 West Germany
38.58 Canada
38.59 United States
38.59 Nigeria
38.65 Italy
38.75 France
British
38.86 Great Britain

4 x 400m relay

Final: October 1
WR: 2:55.16 (a) United States 1988
Holder: United States 2:57.91
2:59.91 United States
3:00.92 East Germany
3:02.12 West Germany
3:03.50 Great Britain
3:03.88 Italy
3:03.94 Yugoslavia

WOMEN

100m

Final: September 25
WR: 10.49 Florence Griffith Joyner (US) 1988
Holder: Evelyn Ashford (US)
10.97
10.49 Florence Griffith Joyner (US)
10.81 Evelyn Ashford (US)
10.83 Sheila Echols (US)
10.85 Anelia Nurvez (EG)
10.88 Maria Groh (EG)
10.89 Kathrin Krabbe (EG)
British
11.25 Paula Dunn
11.34 Simone Jacobs
11.50 Helene Miles

200m

Final: September 29
WR: 21.94 Maria Koch (EG) 1975, 1984; Heike Drechsler (EG) 1986
Holder: Valerie Brisco (US) 21.91
21.77 Florence Griffith Joyner (US)
21.84 Heike Drechsler (EG)
21.84 Maria Koch (EG)
22.02 Garmy Torrence (US)
22.15 Silke Möller (EG)
22.23 Marlene Ottey (Jam)
22.79 Paula Dunn
22.33 Simone Jacobs
23.17 Louise Stuart

Florence Griffith-Joyner has dominated women's sprinting, as well as the fashion pages, this year. From being an also-ran, "Flo-Jo", as the United States press has dubbed her, she has emerged in the last year with an extraordinary (and suspect) 10.49sec for 100 metres, one of 10 world records that have been set in athletics over the last year. She certainly left Evelyn Ashford, the 100 metres title holder in Los Angeles, far behind when she did that time. And even the East Germaners, Marlies Gehr and Heike Drechsler, will have to do some extra special "peaking" to stay with her in the shorter event. But Drechsler may have the edge in the longer event, where she is co-world record holder.

Marathon

Final: September 23
WR: 2:21.06 Ingrid Kristiansen (Nor) 1988
Holder: Joan Benoit (US) 2:24.52
2:23.51 Lisa Martin (Aus)
2:24.30 Rose Mota (Por)
2:27.56 Zhao Youfang (Ch)
2:28.00 Tatjana Polonskaya (USSR)
2:28.24 Grete Waitz (Nor)
2:28.28 Kathrin Dörre (EG)
British
2:32.08 Susan Tooby
2:36.10 Sue Crehan
2:36.11 Angie Pan

400m

Final: September 26
WR: 47.60 Maria Koch (EG) 1975, 1984
Holder: Valerie Brisco (US) 48.83
49.18 Olga Bryzgina (USSR)
49.21 Maria Koch (EG)
49.57 Grace Jackson (Jam)
49.74 Adelia Yurchenko (USSR)
50.10 Jillian Richardson (Can)
British
51.85 Linda Kaugh
52.26 Pat Beckford
52.71 Loren Hall

THE SPIRIT OF THE OLYMPICS

What is competing at the Olympic Games really like? Here, Martin Cross, a 1984 coxed four gold medal winner and a member of the British team in Seoul, gives John Goodbody his view of life in South Korea, and, below, some of Cross's predecessors recount their experiences at the greatest event in sport

As KE902 banked low over the sprawling suburbs of Seoul, we strained to catch a glimpse of the Olympic village or the regatta course. For it was on this that our minds had been focussing in the depths of tiredness during the hardest year of training that a British rowing squad had yet undergone: to the glory associated with the Olympics, to the medals awaiting us after thousands of miles of rowing, all telescoped into 2,000 metres of, hopefully, perfect rowing.

This image had at times become blurred, or even distorted, as we read of student riots and terrorist threats. The shadow of another Eastern bloc boycott further darkened the picture. However, our arrival in South Korea, one month before the Games were to begin, would allow us not only to prepare for the finals in the best possible way but also to contrast our own Olympic vision with the reality of Korea.

Our first 20 days were spent in the bustling provincial capital of Chun-

chon — two hours north-east of Seoul. Known as the Town of the Lakes, it was an ideal venue for what many in the team found to be the best camp in many years (thanks to the generosity of Minet Insurance). Our training water was free of disturbance from water-skiers or pleasure craft, it was calm, and it was large enough for us and the French and Swiss, who arrived later. The Sejon Hotel, on a quiet wooded hillside above the town, was a haven of relaxation and reflection between training sessions.

For the first part of our stay, these were limited to one per day, allowing us the opportunity to recover from jet lag and acclimatize to the extra heat and humidity. This initial period enabled us to become comfortable in Korean surroundings, in a way that would not have been possible in the hot-house atmosphere of the Olympic village.

We had to become accustomed to the high-profile security. On our arrival at Kimpo Airport, we were flanked by helmeted troops; in Chuncheon, we were

"minded" by a squad of 30 detectives and policemen, each with several dans on their martial arts black belts. As individuals or groups wandered to the town, so at a distance a policeman would follow. Trips to the lake were escorted by motorcyclists astride their Harley Davidsons. Initially, among some, this led to a feeling of insecurity, especially if, by chance, you lost your guard. I remember glancing over my shoulder in the long narrow market street, conscious of being the only European around. Soon, though, the worries faded as the team became familiar themselves with the town, and in particular the shopkeepers, bargaining for training shoes that were a



Martin Cross

heightened the squad's new-found sense of importance.

Media attention, however flattering, should never be allowed to detract from the quality of training sessions. The crews were equipped with sun hats and water bottles (to combat heat and

humidity), and the smoothness and flow of their paddling in final stages of preparation seemed to complement the beauty and serenity of the surroundings.

Even on the water, Korea's political situation is never far away. Concentration during a training "piece" was sometimes shattered by the sinister thumping of US Marine choppers based in Chuncheon, on their way over us to another exercise, or perhaps by the armed sentries if we strayed too close to the dam.

Koreans clearly live with this daily and have long since come to terms with it. Their chief concern now is to use a unique opportunity that the Olympics afford them to launch Korea on its next period of economic expansion, overtaking its arch rival, Japan, sometime in the early 21st century. The official line is that all Koreans support the Games to this end, even the student demonstrators. However, it is clear from the conversation with the student interpreters that they resent the vast sums of

money spent on the Olympic complex in Seoul, pointing to the slums.

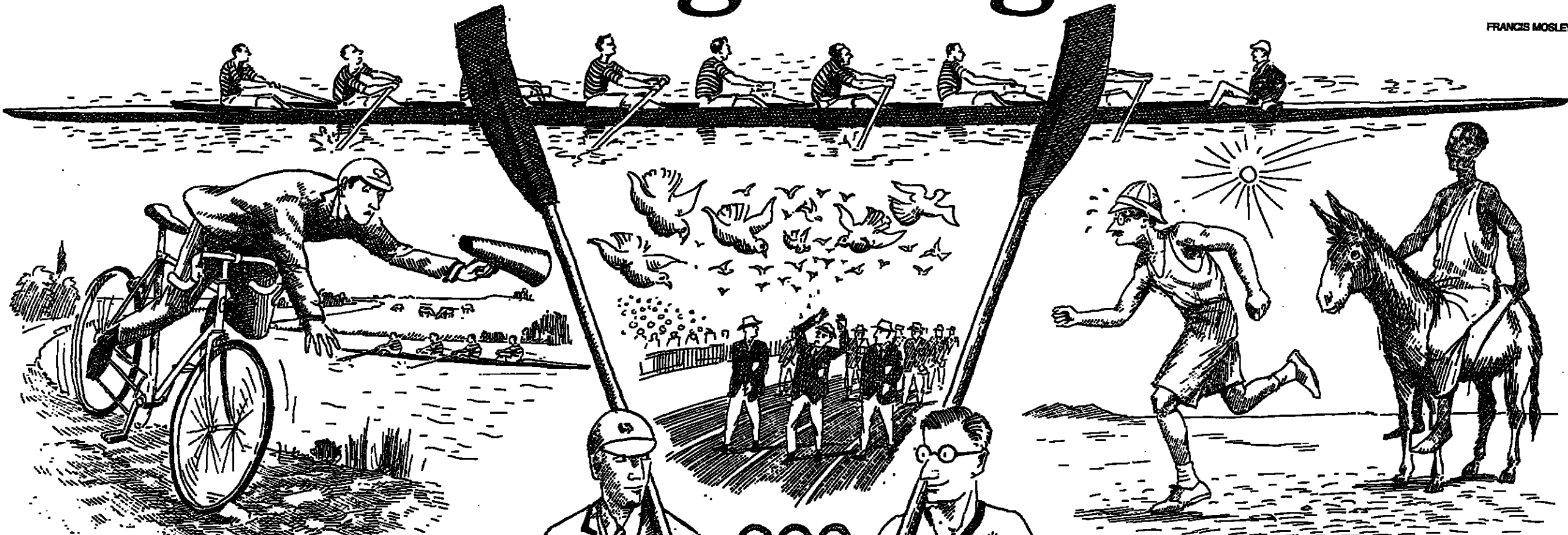
This will not be the face of Korea displayed to the world, nor the Korea we athletes will see. Cocooned in the security ring around the village, we Olympians of 1988 have benefited far more from the Korean economic miracle than they ever will.

Nevertheless, the Olympic ideal has a powerful draw and it is this that ultimately our minds will be drawn. As we move into the final stages of preparation, it will be the thought of long powerful strokes races ahead and the gradual heightening of tension that will dominate.

Chuncheon, where at a dinner in a Korean restaurant with our rivals, we toasted each other's success in fine *Chariots of Fire* style, will be put to the back of our minds. That is until that last stroke, the flight back or even a quiet moment at home, when our Olympic union will be complete.

Rowing for gold

FRANCIS MOSLEY



1928

AMSTERDAM

By Arthur Sulley

Cox of the silver-medal eight

We went to Amsterdam in August by rail and sea to join the British team in residence at the Royal Holland Lloyd Hotel which faced some docks and backed on to railway sidings in which trains shunted noisily most of the night.

They gave us a banquet before the Games began at which Lord Birkenhead extolled the League of Nations and the value of the Games in promoting international brotherhood. He was followed by Harold Abrahams, who made a belligerent speech concluding that this time "we will make sure the Yankees know how to sing our national anthem, before we finish".

The only other exceptional social activity was a reception given by the Americans aboard their liner, the SS Roosevelt, moored in the docks, and on which all the American teams were accommodated. It was a vast gathering leaving no lasting impression — I do not think we returned the hospitality.

Our eight never really produced its brilliant form displayed at Henley. We returned to England crest-fallen and slightly ashamed. Some of the crew felt they should not have been made to row a half course on a rest day. I believe the edge had gone off the physical fitness. Too much ice cream and unsuitable snacks were consumed between meals. Sleeping arrangements were somewhat unorthodox. We received our silver medals by post.

1948

LONDON

Henley

By Ran Laurie

Winner (with Jack Wilson) of the coxed pairs gold medal

We managed to get our leave together from the Sudan Government in May 1948. No doubt the fact that Angus Gillan (himself a gold medalist in 1908 and 1912), who was formerly Chief Secretary, helped!

We did a bit of general fitness training in the Sudan. Jack was in the district where he had to do most of his trekking on foot and was in pretty hard condition and miraculously recovered from a spear wound which had almost transfixed him a few years before. I did some running and used to have some difficulty in persuading kindly Sudanese that I was not mad when they dismounted from their donkeys to offer the District Commissioner a ride.

In early May we were back and began rowing at Cambridge, having left poor Anne Wilson in hospital in Khartoum with jaundice. Then in early June we moved

to Henley where Jack and Anne had rented a cottage and "Mac" McCulloch, our coach, made one of his farm cottages at Streteley available for Pat and me and our daughter (aged 2).

The night before the first race I had an upset stomach and was up four or five times. However, by the afternoon I felt all right and in the race we were some two lengths ahead of the Italians at three-quarters distance, and the other crew nowhere. It seemed simple. Suddenly I felt weak and in the last 200 metres I just remember slamming the rudder against Jack as the Italians came back at us and I think we got home by half a length.

The second race was no more than a hard paddle. In the final we met the Italians, who had come through on the repechage, and the Swiss. This was a thoroughly satisfactory race. We hardly made a mistake.

At midnight I set out for Cambridge where Pat was waiting with bag packed to go into the maternity home. At Luton the lights gave out and a kind policeman guided us to the station where I and my mother, who was with me, were made comfortable in cells for the night, and called at dawn with tea. Four days later Pat was delivered of our younger daughter and three days after that I was back at work in the Sudan.

1952

HELSINKI

By John Hinde

Member of the eight

We flew from Bovingdon in what I recall as a converted Lancaster bomber, and found ourselves in a rather austere camp wired off from the Russians and the Eastern bloc.

I do not think we were in truth arrogant or elitist, but we must have seemed it, or at least very odd-worldly, turned out in the Olympic village as we immaculately wore in blazers, ties and white flannels, while others had adopted the twentieth century tracksuit. We dressed like this for a canteen dinner, no doubt mystifying the pretty Finnish girls who served us — not to mention our fellow competitors. (One such girl was always known to us as "Soup?" in recognition of her daily greetings to each one of us).

The food was okay, except that the ascetic eight denied themselves (or were denied) anything other than the strictest protein. We were certainly lean and hungry.

1960

ROME

By Dick Fishlock

Member of the eight

The path to Rome was extremely hard. We won the French championship at Macon, having been left



on the start still taking off our sweaters. The final of the eights was rowed in a thunderstorm with the stakeboat men on strike. Jumbo Edwards urged us on at 1,500 metres by shouting through an electric loud-hailer: "Forge ahead, Great Britain". This seemed to do the trick and we won in a bit of a scramble with the whole might of France's rowing fading away. Jumbo then flew over the handlebars of his racing bike and, covered in mud at the medal ceremony, exclaimed: "J'ai tombe sur la towpath", much to the amusement of French television viewers. He was later elected Monsieur Beaujolais by popular vote.

We lost the final of the Grand to a rival British crew. We had one more race on the Serpentine, where we broke the record and started the long and boring period from July to September without another.

Rome is a hazy memory. I believe it was 120°F in the Olympic Stadium for the opening ceremony. They let 2,000 doves loose and then fired a number of guns. The result was that the doves bombarded the French and the Games were declared open by the President.

I remember Anita Lonsborough winning the first gold medal on the first night. I remember the most beautiful interpreter girl called Maria Vincenza. I remember Sam Mackenzie refusing to get into the bus with a Finn (we never knew what the Finn had done to him). I remember the fury of the Australian team when Sam decided not to scull but to pursue a more amorous activity in the centre of Rome. I remember a great piece of Olympic diplomacy when the east and West Germans refused to march together as one team. (The

Italians gave the East Germans a new flag and a piece of Beethoven.) I remember Jumbo Edwards and Karl Adam (the Ratzburg coach) teaching a Mother Superior how to pour a proper gin and tonic and I remember resting every day in a wonderful nursery called Mondo Meliore.

Edwin Phelps announced that British boat-builders had nothing to learn from the rest of the world in spite of the fact that our boat weighed 100lb more than the Japanese eight. Harry Freeman, who had been our doctor since the Boat Race, wondered why the official team doctor was a gynaecologist. So did we!

I really don't remember much about the racing except that I thought my heart would burst and my head would explode.

1964

TOKYO

By Arnold Cooke

Member (with Peter Webb) of the double sculls

We met many of the other members of the British team about a month before the Games when we were fitted for our kit. The designers had decided on slim-fit trousers for the men's team. These looked most elegant on the marathon runners but the weight-lifters found they could only get them above their knees by a two-handed snatch, at which point the seams split.

In Tokyo, the rowing and fencing teams found each other's company congenial, to the extent that a year or two after the Games Hugh Wardell-Yerburgh married a fencer. Talking with Allan Jay (Olympic fencing teams, 1952-1964; silver medal 1960, etc)

contrasted fencing and rowing training. We were given a questionnaire which asked: "When did you first start training at least three times a week regularly?" Allan never trained that often regularly. He relied on incredibly fast reactions and superb technique.

Outside the British team, we had excellent relations with the Dutch and Belgian rowing teams, the Swiss double and the American eight, all of whom we had met at the European championships and other regattas. Boyce Budd from the US eight had also rowed for Cambridge in 1962. The Americans were very upset by the Eastern bloc attitude to sport where everyone seemed to be a lieutenant, captain or major (rank dependent on gold medals won) with as much time as they needed for training. We sympathized as we all worked full-time but, as we had seen the US crew around Europe for most of that year, we asked them when they had last worked. They finally decided it was nine months previously, but private sponsorship was OK while state sponsorship was not.

1972

MUNICH

By Rooney Massara

Member of the coxed four

Mention the Munich Olympics to most people and they think of the Black September terrorist incident. In the middle of the Games, Arab terrorists broke into the Olympic village at night, stormed the Israeli quarters and this led to the deaths of 11 Israelis and the terrorists.

There had been Olympics in the past where politics had intervened but Munich sticks in most people's memories. I think this is because of the combination of raw violence and, for the first time, the immediacy of the live global TV news coverage of the terrorist incident.

One of the pleasant memories of Munich was meeting the athletes from the other events and, once the rowing was over in the first week, watching the events in the main stadium. Then, suddenly, the terrorist invasion of the Israeli quarters occurred, the feeling of powerlessness at being confined to the village but being unable to do anything, watching the authorities try and deal with the terrorists in the full glare of international publicity. They stopped the Games, tried to get the terrorists out of the village quickly and then had a disastrous shoot-out with them at Munich airport.

1980

MOSCOW

By Colin Moynihan

Cox of the silver-medal eight

If confirmation was needed that sport could never be separated from politics, the Moscow Olympics provided it. From the early reports of a Soviet invasion of Afghanistan during the long cold winter months of training, a cloud on the Olympic horizon was formed. A cloud which was to cast a shadow over selection procedures, preparation and the eventual competition. Lucerne Regatta took on a new perspective — crews caught in the boycott saw victory on the Rotsee as vindication of their medalless mantelpieces. Nor did governing bodies escape criticism. The Amateur Rowing Association turned its face against sending a team, then reluctantly consulted the trialists and finally recommended a squad to the British Olympic Association.

Memories of the Games will long remain. The cold austerity of Moscow airport, the impassive faces and bureaucratic reception. The empty outside lanes on the freeways reserved for Olympic traffic — were in sharp contrast to the seething accreditation centre at the Olympic Village, from where dozens of buses constantly departed for "Olympic destinations" and multi-coloured track-suits brought life to the well-provided village with its tall grey tower blocks.

1984

LOS ANGELES

By Joanna Toch

Member of the women's coxed four

"Good morning. How are you doing?" At 4.30am, as we stumbled out of our rooms in the

Olympic village into the black Californian morning, we peered in disbelief at the smiling volunteer. We were competing in the Olympic regatta on Lake Castias, north of Los Angeles. Nothing remarkable was expected of us. As minor athletes in a minority sport, we were mindful of our Coubertinian duty: to take part with honour. But Hollywood had thrown a party, a public glittering extravaganza, and even those who made up the crowd scenes were going to have the time of their lives.

The three Olympic villages were awash with pastel pink, orange and green. Shops, post-offices, banks, cinemas were built on to the existing university campuses to create a real working Hollywood set for us to live in. Village volunteers in their pastel uniforms were everywhere, blonde, smiling and enthusiastic. In the early days, before all the teams arrived, they outnumbered us four to one. It was like living in a McDonald's hamburger restaurant where everything was quick, clean and pleasant, and you knew you wouldn't be able to stay too long.

We were unable to tell how our countries might be faring from the television coverage. America, it seemed, won everything, although the Romanians, the sole Eastern bloc representatives, put up noble performances. After watching the ceremony, we donned blazers and hats over our shorts and held our own version using an electric torch supplied by a helpful volunteer. A sundry assortment of nations then splashed about in the fountain and tried not to be self-conscious when one of the volunteers started recording it on video. We spent free time during the competition sending messages on the computer terminals provided for us to play with. The electronic noticeboard soon became filled with lewd jokes in every language and the progress of the morning contest was faithfully recorded. My friend sent a poem to Daley Thompson. He didn't reply.

At the closing ceremony, I struck up a conversation with Seb Coe, aware of the principal question that people had asked when I returned from competing in the Moscow Olympics. "Yes, but did you meet Seb Coe?"

Then my friend Kate and I seized the British flag and ran round the stadium. Soon other nations followed and the organizers, caught out by this unscripted event, begged us to leave the track. Eventually we scattered ourselves over the grass to watch the final ceremonies and the Olympic flame flicker and die out. "Don't end, don't end," said Kate. The Easties didn't turn up. They sure missed a good party.

These recollections are adapted from the September issue of *Regatta*, the magazine of the Amateur Rowing Association. Copies available (£2.20 each) from the Regatta office, 6 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, London W6 9D.

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IN BRIEF Jaguar's day reckoning

London in the lead

Medical mission

Age d

Andrew Longmore meets West Ilsley's new man at the helm, Neil Graham

Embarrassed by classic start

Racing people often seem embarrassed by success, they love it, work impossible hours to achieve it, but resort to terrible understatement to describe it.

Neil Graham, who has just taken over the reins at West Ilsley, is no exception. A week after he had trained Minster Son to an historic victory in the St Leger, he was still trying to sort out romance from reality.

"I can't say that it was a great personal triumph because training a classic winner is not about one race but planning a whole career and that had nothing to do with me."

"It was tremendous for everyone. But for me, there was no sense of 'wow, I've done it', it was just important that he had run well."

"I'm very open to criticism at the moment. If I don't have winners or if the horses don't run well, then people will be wondering what I'm doing. So it was just a huge relief that he ran well and a bonus that he won."

The reality, of course, is that Graham is just an understudy thrust into a starring role because of Dick Hern's continued and untimely illness. The romance is that record books will state he has had a classic winner after just nine days as a trainer.

He was granted a temporary licence on September 1. Eight days later, he had saddled Prince Of Dance to win a group two race and picked up another group prize with Lady Beaverbrook's Nemesis.

After nine, he had won his first classic. No wonder he checks it out. It even took the master, Dick Hern himself, four years to win his first classic with Hetherston in the 1962 St Leger. "Perhaps I should give up while I'm ahead," he laughs.

Even by sport's high standards, Graham's rise has been meteoric. Three months before the Leger, he had been running a training centre in California. He had only returned to England in June to take up the post of assistant trainer to Hern, and only just about mastered the names of



Mutual respect: Neil Graham and St Leger winner Minster Son get to know each other better (Photograph: Julian Herbert)

all 85 horses in the yard when suddenly, frighteningly, at the age of 28, he was in charge of them all.

In his few quiet moments since, Graham will doubtless reflect on the unpromising beginnings of his career. Though his background is right, his pedigree as a racehorse trainer is, to say the least, erratic.

When he left Shrewsbury Public School a decade ago, his only experience of horses had been going racing on odd Saturdays and riding at a few shows in South Wales where his parents lived.

He knew what he didn't want to do, and not much else. But, in 1980, at the age of 20, inspired by the experience of John Dunlop, who had begun his career by advertising his services in *The Sporting Life* many years previously, Graham decided to do the same.

He even used the same words in his advertisement.

The result was a job as pupil assistant to Derek Kent at his stables near Chichester.

"I wanted to go to a stable with jumpers and Flat horses because at the time I was about 12 stone and Flat people tend to look at you a bit askance if you weigh that much. I didn't know much about racing and I'm sure they thought what we are going to do with this great lump?"

As he moved from Kent to William Hastings-Bass at Newmarket and then on to Ian Balding at Kingsclere, Graham listened and learned. He even lost weight. In 1987, he went to the United States to work with John Gosden, and 18 months later he had begun his career by advertising his services in *The Sporting Life* many years previously, Graham decided to do the same.

Without really knowing it, he had completed his racing education. Though with typical modesty, he denies it. "The thing about training is that at times you get the feeling you are beginning to know what

you are doing, but it never seems to get any further than that."

"You are always just beginning. As soon as you think you know it all, you come crashing back down to earth. It doesn't matter if you're 28 or 68," he says.

After eight years in the game, Graham's boyish face bears little trace, as yet, of misfortune or anxiety. In the past fortnight, his career has changed from a steady upward curve into a vertical line, but his natural humility has remained constant.

He shies away from self-examination, shifts uneasily at the prospect of praise. He is happiest talking about horses, about whether Prince Of Dance will go for the Dewhurst or the Futurity or neither — "my instinct says the Dewhurst" — or about Unfuwain's chances in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

"It's a race that will suit him because they go a good gallop."

He's had a good rest and should be fresh," he says.

In two months' time, Graham's licence runs out and, all being well with Major Hern, he will retire back into the shadows. The prospect does not seem to worry or frustrate him. In time, he will want to train his own horses, adopt his own methods, establish his own personality. But not just yet.

"The Major has been one of the greatest trainers in the history of racing. He is such an experienced man, such a great man, that I don't think I can do anything other than live in his shadow. I would be a fool to think otherwise," he says.

But what if Unfuwain should give him an outrageous double. Even Graham balks at the prospect. "Oh, that would be too much, I think. I've a lot to live up to already and it's quite a responsibility. I suppose the best thing is not to try," he replies, reddening again.

So Careful springs 33-1 surprise in Ayr sprint

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

So Careful, the conqueror of Klute in the world speed challenge match at Haydock Park, gave his trainer, Jack Berry, the most important triumph of his career when springing a 33-1 surprise in the Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup yesterday.

Ridden by the 28-year-old Nicky Carlisle, the winner went clear over a furlong from home and held on gamely to resist the challenge of the fast finishing Chaplins Club by a length away in third place with Restore finishing a close fourth.

Glencroft, the favourite, was badly hampered by Premier Lad and after helping to make the early running weakened to finish 12th.

Golden Ancona also encountered trouble in running and came home strongly to take seventh place.

Once again the draw played a decisive part in the destination of the £25,700 prize. The winner was drawn six, Chaplins Club 12, and Foolish Touch 10. Restore, drawn 28, was the only horse drawn under the stand rails to be involved in the finish.

The popular and hard-working Berry, delighted at having achieved one of his life's ambitions said: "He's a lovely horse. We call him Albert at home. I told Nicky not to be in too much of a hurry but to let him pull his way to the front if the horse felt like it."

Now with 63 winners to his credit already this season, this is Berry's best-ever year.

"I've had lots of goes at

winning the Ayr Gold Cup. I remember we thought we'd win it with I Don't Mind, but she loved the firm going and it rained all night. The owner and I sat in the Station Hotel and cried."

This was also the biggest win of his career for Carlisle. "I always thought we were going to win. I tackled my way over to the middle and let him stride on. I never thought anything would catch us."

Favourite backers were out of luck until Martin Fry won the Weir Memorial Trophy on Own Free Will. And in the opening Coyle Stakes it was the each-way backers who were shouting their heads off after the 9-2 chance Mayday Miracle had sprinted clear for Bill Watts in the hands of Nicky Connorton.

Bred by Rowena Nurse at the Westow Stud, Mayday Miracle is the last surviving foal of the high-class sprinter, Mayday Melody, who is also the dam of Chapel Cottage.

"It's a miracle she's here at all," said Pat Watts, the trainer's wife. "Her mother died during a caesarian on May Day."

The second odds-on favourite of the afternoon was beaten when Modesty On Ice, ridden like Blue Orea by Ray Cochrane, could finish only fifth behind Chadenshe.

Mark Birch, unchallenged cock of the north rode his 82nd winner of the season on William Jarvis's filly. The 33-year-old jockey rode the pants off more fashionable southern counterparts when making every yard of the running on the 9-2 winner.



Jack Berry: long wait for Ayr Gold Cup win

Horses always find it difficult to quicken in soft going. And when the whole field are short of finishing pace, the prize generally goes to the most enterprisingly ridden. After waiting in front, Birch lengthed from home to win by 2½ lengths from the fast-finishing Brizilacote.

VAT scare for Nelson

Charlie Nelson, attending the Keeneland Sales in Kentucky, had an unpleasant shock when his sleep was disturbed by the small hours by a telephone call from his brother, John, announcing that a VAT officer was at the Lambourn stable with a demand for £40,000.

The mix-up had occurred because of the postal strike and Nelson swiftly authorized the payment.

CATTERICK BRIDGE

Selections By Mandarin

2.0 Conway King, 2.30 Yuan Princess, 3.0 The Mazell, 3.30 Broad, 4.0 Monastic Habit, 4.30 Gazetelung, 5.0 Glendora.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.0 Gold Ducat, 3.0 Send In The Clowns, 3.30 Almarrekh, 4.0 Vague Melody, 4.30 Gazetelung, 5.0 Glendora.

Going: good to firm

Draw: 6f, low numbers best

2.0 ASKING GRADUATION STAKES (2-Y-O: 5f: £22,735) (10 runners)

1. 3802 SANDOR COTTON (5f) (J. Berry) 9-7
2. 3214 GOLD DUCAT (18) (J. W. Jarvis) 9-2
3. 00 ARGENTIL 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
4. 00 HOLDSIDE 17 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
5. 0000 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
6. 002 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
7. 0000 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
8. 0000 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
9. 0000 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
10. 0000 CARRON TRACK 18 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1

2.30 BADEALE SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: 1m 5f: £1,303) (8)

1. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
2. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
3. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
4. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
5. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
6. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
7. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
8. 0000 COSMIC RAY 35 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0

3.0 JOHN SMITH'S HANDICAP (3-Y-O: 7f: £2,820) (20)

1. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
2. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
3. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
4. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
5. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
6. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
7. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0
8. 2203 FELHAM PLACE 14 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-0

3.30 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O: 1m 4f: £1,847) (7)

1. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
2. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
3. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
4. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
5. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
6. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
7. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1

3.30 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O: 1m 4f: £1,847) (7)

1. 536 ANTILICENCE 26 (J. W. Jarvis) 9-1
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Danehill switch to reap rich dividend

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Paris

Danehill (Pat Eddery), originally pencilled in for the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury today, has been re-routed to Longchamp tomorrow for the group one Prix de la Salamandre (10f). He is joined by Gorytus Star, trained by Fred Fyche, and Paul Kelleway's Stone Flake.

Reputed to be the best two-year-old in Jeremy Tree's stable, Danehill ran out a comfortable winner from First Secretary at York last time, although he had looked to be struggling two furlongs out. The bad ground could not have helped him, and he will be better suited by the good going at Paris.

It is a matter of Russian Bond's reputation that Jeremy Tree has opted to bypass a group two race in favour of a group one contest, but it may well pay off.

Gorytus Star is held in high regard by the always optimistic Fred Fyche, and looked to be a cold of some potential when winning at Haydock.

Best of the home defence should be the Piri du Calvados winner Ozy Czarina, although Philippe was expected to be in the Morny at Deauville, and he may do better there.

Freddie Head will be the 14th jockey to partner Triptych when she takes on Neil Graham's Emmon (Willie Carson) in the £20,705 Prix de l'Orange (10f). The ground, likely to be good, will favour Emmon, but the trip is in the mare's favour.

Emmon has not run since his Prix du Jockey Club third, and while the form of that race has not worked out, he is reported to be in great form. He still may have to give best to Triptych, however.

John Dunlop sends three horses to Italy tomorrow, Toppider Man (Walter Swinburn) in the group one Gran Premio d'Italia (1m 4f) at Milan, Dark Singer (Swinburn) in the Critérium National, and Preterita (Richard Quinn) in the Premio Archidamia in Rome.

Longchamp field

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Eddery loses race at inquiry

Pat Eddery's victory in the £20,705 Prix de l'Orange (10f) was nullified after a successful appeal by the French Racing Authority.

The runner-up, ridden by Steve Dawson, caused havoc by furlongs out when drifting left and bumping Willie Carson's mount Fast Chick, who finished third. In turn, Fast Chick cannoned into Sleeping Beauty. The stewards reversed second and third places.

Michael Marshall, the apprentice find of the season, had his riding allowance trimmed to 30 after swooping late on Skazka to win the Fairhurst Nursery. Marshall, apprenticed to royal trainer Ian Balding, was gaining his tenth victory against senior jockeys.

Allec Head's daughter, Cricquette, will be seriously affected by the sale, as she had trained nearly all the Écurie Allec horses. She said at her Chantilly stable: "I expect to have a good deal fewer horses next year. I do not think we can realistically bid for all the horses as there will be less competition."

"Naturally, my father is very upset at this news as the partnership represents 30 years of

CHESS

Young masters

Last week saw one of the most remarkable results ever in British chess: no less than two Grandmaster results in one tournament. It happened at the Nat West Young Masters' Tournament. David Norwood, aged 19 and about to go up to Oxford, and — most remarkable — 16-year-old Michael Adams from Truro, Cornwall, both made the Grandmaster norm in the same event.

The Young Masters' Tournament is further evidence of a most welcome trend in the capital's chess life. This year, there have been no fewer than three events at Grandmaster level in London. The first, the Watson Farley and Williams Challenge, catapulted 14-year-old Matthew Sadler to fame. The second, the David Slade Tournament, was organized along original lines by Malcolm Pein, leading light of the Association of British Chessmasters. This pitted two international teams against each other in a cross-paired system, and thus gave talented youngsters numerous opportunities for title results. The third, the Nat West, has been one of the most productive tournaments ever held in terms of Grandmaster norms achieved. It is to be hoped that all these tournaments will now, once their success has been established, become fixtures on the annual chess scene in London.

There is further good news on the horizon. Merchant bankers Duncan Lawrie, who support the English Olympic Team, are planning a major tournament in October to train the English women's squad for the Olympics later this year. Among the guests facing our own Susan Arkell, Dr Jana Miles and Sheila Jackson will be the Hungarian girl prodigy, 12-year-old Judith Polgar. An exciting tournament is in prospect here.

This week's game is a splendid win by David Norwood against a strong American Grandmaster, who will be playing for the US Olympic side. It was a key victory in Norwood's quest for his first Grandmaster result. Norwood will need two more such results in order to claim the full title.

White David Norwood, Black Sergei Kudrin, Nat West Young Masters' London, August 31. Polish Defence Deferred.

The extended fianchetto is an indication of aggressive intentions on Black's part. Nevertheless, this advance also has a dark side, the possible exposure of Black's Queen's side pawns.

This further eccentric mobilization assumes too many responsibilities. Black should simply castle. Norwood now expertly proceeds to exploit the looseness of Black's pawn formation on the Queen's wing.

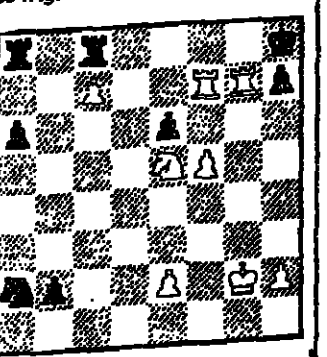
A particularly fine move. White demonstrates with this move that he is not bound by sterile conventions concerning the inadvisability of moving the same piece twice in the opening. This thrust disrupts the harmony of Black's Queen's side forces.

The exchanges appear to have alleviated Black's difficulties, but even in this simplified position White retains some initiative.

White now has a dangerous passed "c" pawn. He is prepared to sacrifice what remains of his Queen's wing in order to advance it.

The game resolves itself into a race between passed pawns, but now Norwood introduces an extra dimension, direct attack against the Black King.

30 Ne5+ Kf6 31 f4 gxf4 32 gxf4 Kf7 33 Rxf7+ Kg6 34 Rg7



Black resigned. Kudrin had been relying on the pinning defence ... Rg8 but now observed to his horror that Norwood could deliver checkmate in two moves with the beautiful sacrifice 37 Ng6+ hxg6 38 Rh7 mate.

Raymond Keene

Cool glimmers of white

CLARE ROBERTS

Francesca Greenoak visits Lady Joan Heath's garden in Buckinghamshire

learning most from Sissinghurst.

She planted shrubs and old roses and "masses of herbs which are my particular joy". Having made a start herself, Lady Heath was then fortunate to find a gardener who found her ideas stimulating. Glyn Onions is the first to concede that it came as "a shock to the system at first", and that to achieve the desired tangled look using the organic methods favoured by his employer, he had to learn most of his horticultural training.

Gradually they created the soft, tangled impression which at the same time had enough evergreen and variegated shrubs to make a good show in winter. At its best, from spring into autumn, it is a swaying mass of white-crested foliage, with a few blues in the form of the irresistible *Salvia patens* and meadow clary, and "bleached pinks such as the lovely *Heritiera rosea*".

The yellow of *Clematis tangutica*, with its arched petals, picks up the yellow heart of the pride and joy of Watercroft, the tree poppy (*Romneya coulteri*), which continues to open its ruffled, white flowers with yellow centres well into autumn. Its elegant grey-green foliage is perfect in the white garden, but it has been something of a triumph to establish this plant, which prefers a light, fertile, well-drained soil, in a garden built on heavy clay. Over the years the Watercroft soil has been lightened and enriched with tons of spent

mushroom compost and home-made mulch.

The *Romneya* is now completely at home, but in this garden, which is 550ft above sea level and cold in the winter, it is treated as a herbaceous perennial, cut back in spring to shoot again. Propagation is notoriously tricky, for it is a plant which hates disturbance and cannot be divided without prejudicing the health of the parent plant.

The best way is to watch for a sucker. If this is dug up and chopped into short sections, and the pieces are placed horizontally in a seed tray of sandy compost and given a bottom heat of 60°F (15°C) in a propagator, they may take, "with a bit of luck, though the success rate is never very high".

Other sections of the garden have been developed. The extended courtyard is ornamented with tubs and pots of white geraniums and petunias, and overflowing with the generous white daisy-flower of *Argyranthemum frutescens*, sometimes sold as *Chrysanthemum frutescens*. In the kitchen garden, sheltered by yew hedges, fruit and vegetables are produced in plenty, with space for nursery beds for plants due to go out into the main garden.

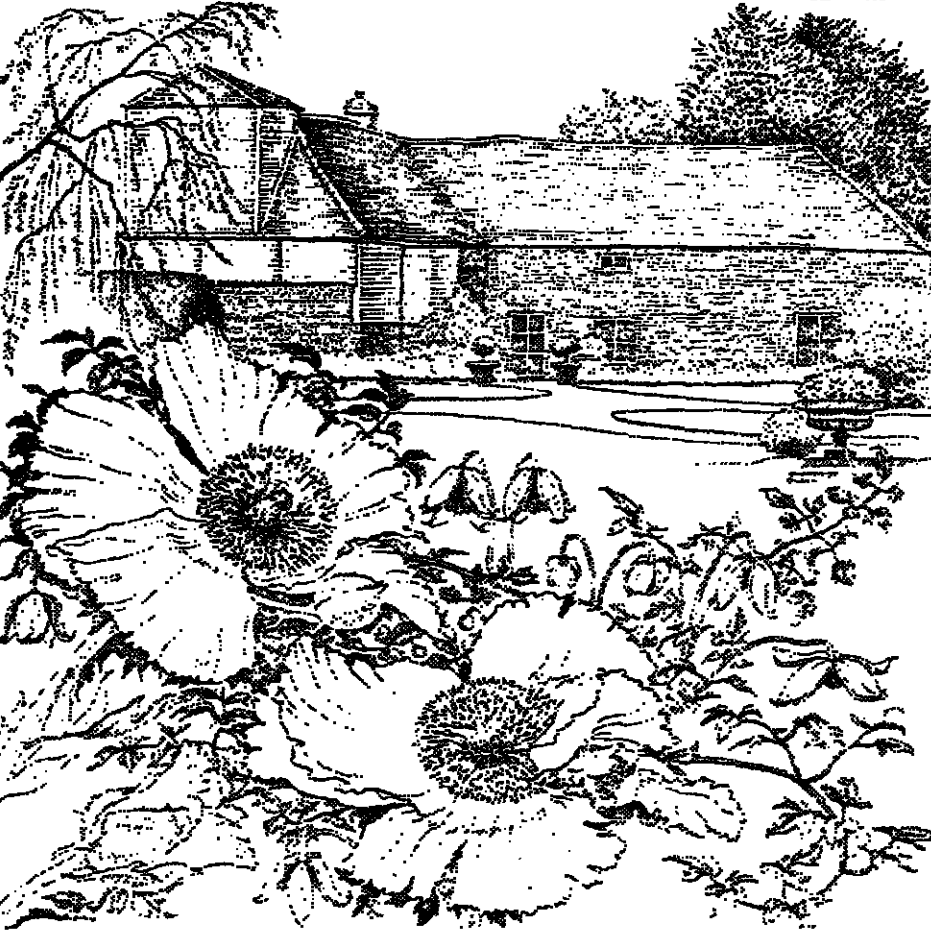
A major enterprise was the making of a walk with five arches covered with roses and honeysuckle, and flower borders on either side. It took a great deal of preparation, and Onions still remembers the details: "Fifty cubic metres of mushroom compost incorporated three spits (spade depths) deep."

Now in its third summer, it makes a pleasant show, mainly in pinks, blues and whites with astringent, Jacob's ladder, double rugosa roses, Japanese anemones and foxgloves.

ROY SMITH



Loose leaf: natural charm in Sheila Macqueen's ideas



Pride of place: the tree poppy established at Watercroft is treated as a herbaceous perennial

Here is another speciality of the garden: a good form of the white Russell lupin, which comes true from seed. Attractive herbs such as clary sage (*Salvia sclarea*), vervain and wormwood are to be found in many parts of the garden, but there are three herb collections; the newest one a paved herb garden overlooking the croquet lawn, with a wild-flower meadow and a distant view over the Buckinghamshire countryside to Windsor Castle.

Gradually Onions has developed his skills in propagation, especially of native wild spe-

cies, since only half of Watercroft's four acres are cultivated as garden. The hilly woodland edge, paddock and new meadow are managed for their wildlife in consultation with the Buckinghamshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG). Already the butterflies have increased significantly, and the sloping meadow dotted with common spotted orchid has a nice showing of the devil's-bit scabious, betony and the white marsh thistle. In the damper reaches, recently planted angelica is already an impressive presence.

No doubt there would have been more projects, but since the death of her husband early this year Lady Heath has decided that the house and garden are too large, and is moving to a smaller house nearby. Onions, having developed an interest as well as skill in herbs and wild flowers, has started his own specialist nursery business, organically raising a wide range of plants for direct sale and mail order. Dove Cottage Herbs is at Penn House Estate, near Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP7 0PS (0494 718203); catalogue 50p including p&p.

Vases for the lover not the arranger

Arranging is an oft-practised but ill-judged art

Flower arranging has always seemed one of the most practised and least perfected arts in this country. I have always found a bunch of flowers dumped in a jar infinitely preferable to the over-fussy, gawky or artificial displays I see everywhere. I have not yet read a flower-arranging book without despair.

Yet the gathering of even the smallest posy is, in a simple way, an exercise in flower arranging. I make no claims for my own rudimentary efforts, but it is absolutely clear to me that picking flowers is an artistic activity.

There was a memorable occasion one autumn when I went around a garden with a great gardener who is also a compulsive picker and who had gathered a work of art by the time we got back to the house. There were rare and unusual plants; perennials, old-fashioned spoon-petalled and small spray chrysanthemums, the last astringents, making a wonderful bouquet of pinks, greys and purples.

How, then, do flower arrangers manage to get it so dreadfully wrong? Is it the concentration on florists' flowers, usually boring species

silver but green-purple, with seeds just showing through, the dainty leaves of meadow-rue peep through the dark foliage of *Rosa rugosa*.

A few of the arrangements pictured are too statuesque for my untutored taste, but I admire the selection of plants: even ghastly Iceberg roses look beautiful in a creamy combination with white petunias, cream gladioli, nicotiana and snapdragon, pink hydrangea, and lime tree twigs with their small pendant lime tree bracts and fruits (Tilia, that is, not the citrus fruit).

And who could fail to respond to the soft, fragrant, tumble of Gruss an Aachen roses, jasmine and sweet peas?

The main part of the book goes from scabious to zinnia through an interesting range of plants with notes on good varieties, their cultivation, conditioning, preserving and arranging. Macqueen's calendar of materials is a good gardening crib for flower and foliage through the year. She covers restoring overgrown gardens, mediating the ugliness of swimming pools and using wild flowers for cutting. There is also a chapter on drying and preserving.

F.G.

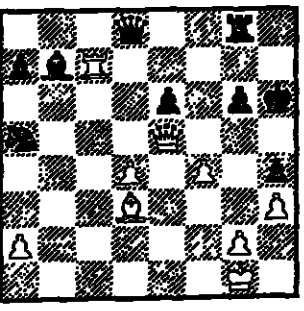
Roy Hay

WEEKEND TIPS

- Check frames and greenhouses and repair or replace damaged parts.
- Pick fruit as it ripens.
- Make sure that greenhouse heaters are working, not forgetting thermostats.
- Collect seed of delphiniums and lupins, and other ripe seed; dry if necessary and store in dry envelopes.
- Take up outdoor Impatiens (busy lizzies) and pot them for winter to save buying new stock next year — but make sure they do not have red spider mite.
- Rake lawns thoroughly to remove dead grass and moss, and spike to aerate the roots. If you like to top dress, do it now, but if you have adopted the method of cutting frequently at a height of about 1½/2 inches, and left the cuttings, you may find you do not need extra fertilizer.
- Plant daffodils at once if you want them to flower next year: try naturalizing them in grass or planting through ground cover.

WINNING MOVE

In the position shown White has the initiative. White, to move can win. What is the winning move?



To enter The Times Winning Move competition, send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Winning Move Competition, The Times, 1 Victoria Street, London E1 6BN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a water-sprayed personal chess computer. The winners' names together with the winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

BRIDGE

A helping hand for the Calvados

Deauville, despite the introduction of fruit machines in the casino, still retains a backcloth of faded Edwardian elegance to set off the languistines and wild strawberries. But for the British there was a happy nostalgia was sown by an abysmal performance in the Invitation event, when they finished a poor sixth of six. There were some excuses, but not enough.

Rob Sheehan had to plead guilty on the following exhibit, which was put to the jury over a night-cap.

Teams: East-West Game. Dealer South.

Q1098	K1075	AQJ4	K63
J2	AB42	QJ5	852
Q1098	K1075	AQJ4	K63
J2	AB42	QJ5	852

Despite East-West's silence in the bidding, Sheehan received the testing lead of the ♠3 against his contract of four spades. He led the ♠10, dummy and led the ♠J. West losing to West's ♠J. West persisted with another diamond, which Sheehan was obliged to trump, reducing

dummy's trump holding to the Queen of spades alone.

In danger of losing trump control, Sheehan played a heart to the ♠Q which West won with the ♠A. Now West defended well. Rather than giving his partner a heart ruff, which would have forced Sheehan into a winning line, West switched to a club. Sheehan won in hand, ruffed a diamond in dummy, and returned to hand with a club to draw a round of trumps. But when East ruffed the second round of hearts he was able to cash his Ace of diamonds to defeat the contract.

Perhaps it was a trifle unlucky to find the hearts 4-1, but with the trumps breaking 3-2 and the honours divided, you cannot blame the fates. Technically it is probably better to start the trumps with the ♠Q. And again, it would be an improvement to win the club switch in dummy and run the Queen of spades. No certainly, but if it loses then at least you can justifiably claim to be unlucky.

It was my turn to do something silly on this hand in our match against Italy. Teams: East-West Game. Dealer West.

Jeremy Flint

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 1670

Prizes of the 1988 Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, September 22. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, September 24.

ACROSS

1 Take revenge (6)

5 Exposed (5)

8 Prize trophy (3)

9 Ruin (6)

10 Throw out (6)

11 Focal points (4)

12 Lonely (8)

14 Servile agent (6)

15 Tamper with (6)

16 Profitable (8)

18 Opera song (4)

19 Boundary (6)

21 Absent (6)

22 Afflict (3)

23 Turn (5)

24 Consuming (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1669

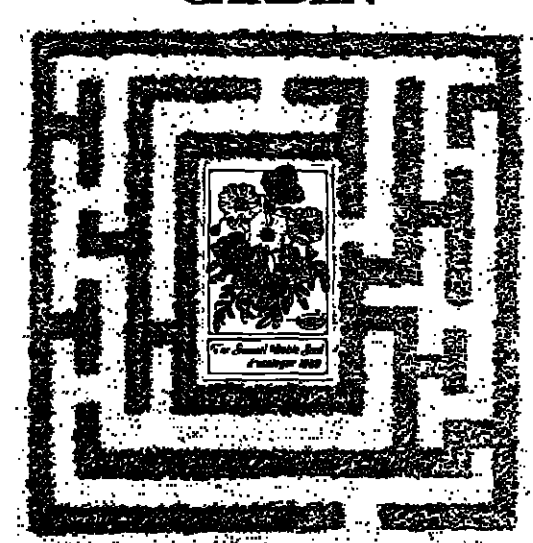
ACROSS: 1 Supreme 4 Scampi 9 Traitor 12 Telemark 14 Pillar 15 Chubbly 16 Ethereal 18 Tusk 19 Balize 21 Ischia 22 Rod 23 Enemy 24 Energy
DOWN: 2 Unpredictable 3 Grisaille 4 Ejector 5 Eapel 6 Van 7 Square-bashing 13 Moustache 15 Collide 17 Every 20 Ale

The August Bank Holiday Jumbo Crossword will now be judged on Monday September 26 and the winners announced on Saturday October 1.

SOLUTION TO NO 1664
ACROSS: 1 Bungle 5 Eaves 8 Lax 9 Sprites 10 Pent-up 11 Beta 12 Telemark 14 Pillar 15 Chubbly 16 Ethereal 18 Tusk 19 Balize 21 Ischia 22 Rod 23 Enemy 24 Energy
DOWN: 2 Unpredictable 3 Grisaille 4 Ejector 5 Eapel 6 Van 7 Square-bashing 13 Moustache 15 Collide 17 Every 20 Ale

Name _____ Address _____

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OUTDOOR LEISURE

Enjoying a country ramble, unobstructed, is a rare event. Alan Franks explores the reasons

In pursuit of the original path

Once upon a time there was a savage bull with a bad hang-over who snorted steam from each nostril at high pressure and clawed the ground with his nearside front hoof, ready to charge.

He somehow managed to station himself in whichever field you were crossing, whether in Cornwall or Cumbria, and his function was to turn a quiet country stroll into a crash course on how to become El Cordobes.

This cartoon creature thrived so well on the terror of intruders that he seemed to be in the pay of all farmers who did not like strangers on their acres, and as an emblem of exclusion he had no peers in the land.

He is still there, particularly in the urban imagination, but his profile appears to have fallen; he has been upstaged by a quieter, subtler, but just as ubiquitous device — the ploughed-up footpath. What the one achieves through fear, the other achieves through frustration.

Tomorrow the Ramblers' Association is holding a series of some 20 local rallies up and down the country with the aim of drawing attention to rights of way which for one reason or another have become in effect impassable. The farmer is by no means the only culprit cited, and even when he is, he does not always stand accused of wilful obstructionism.

There is always that most reliable scapegoat, the local authority, and beyond that a state which, in the opinion of many habitual walkers, puts the prerogative of the food producer above the public's legitimate rights of access; not on paper perhaps, but in practice.

The issue has become so complex, the changes so rapid and the feelings so high, that we could do worse than approach the field of debate through a single and precise point of access. Our photograph shows three men in a field. The two on the left want to walk along a footpath clearly marked on the large-scale map between the villages of Ince Blundell and Lydiate, where the northern suburbs of Liverpool start giving way to open countryside.

The man on the right is not keen on the idea, and is motioning them towards a detour. His route may be a few hundred yards longer than the others' proposed one, but it will get them to where they want to go, which is a point on the western bank of the River Alt.

Maybe, the man in the middle is saying, but what has happened to the



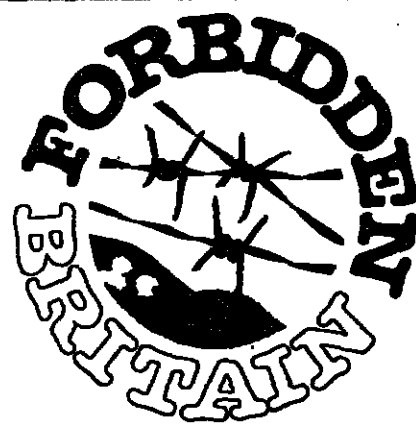
Press, pressure group and pressurised. Times walking writer Alan Franks (left) and the Ramblers' Association's countryside officer David Beskine (centre), are shown an alternative route by a Lancashire farmer.

They were looking for the right of way stretching away to the left out of the picture, but found only a field of turnips.

When they reached the river bank at the point where the map shows the right of way crossing the River Alt, they mysteriously found a bridge too few.

actual right of way? It has been completely lost beneath a crop of turnips, and this amounts to a criminal offence. Yes, says the man on the right, but what was the point of preserving a footpath through a working field, when no-one ever walked that way?

They would walk that way, if only the path were maintained, returns the middle man. This brings the argument



straight into what we could call the Clause 22 of access politics. Paraphrased, this runs as follows: the less use which a footpath receives, the less shall become the public's right to use it.

You may by now have realised that the man on the right is the farmer; the one in the middle is the countryside officer of the Ramblers' Association, and the one on the left, silent until now, is your

correspondent. The photo therefore might be said to show, from left to right, press, pressure group and pressurised.

Despite appearances, we had not gone in search of a confrontation, but of that right of way, so clearly and unequivocally shown in the so-called "definitive survey" map which each county produces. We were scarcely ankle deep in the turnips, (and by now of course technically trespassing since we were almost certainly not on the right of way for the simple reason that we couldn't find it) than the farmer, as if on cue, appeared in his landrover to see what was afoot. Who could blame him?

The Ince to Lydiate footpath has an extra complication, although this does not make it unique. On the map it proceeds to the River Alt, crosses it, and continues on the other side. Or rather, the right of way does. The footpath would gladly do likewise, were it not for the small but crucial matter of a missing bridge. It fell to pieces almost a century ago and has never since been replaced. Under existing law the responsibility to maintain the public right of way, which in this instance means supplying a means of foot crossing, falls to the local authority.

See it through the farmer's eyes. Some rickety carpentry collapsed next to his land while Victoria still reigned; there was not a great deal he could do about it. The path, apparently used by worshippers making their way to the church at Lydiate from west of the Alt, followed into disuse. Why, when he uses his land for vegetable production, should he shelve through his field what would be no more than a commemorative line?

He could point out that he has even set up a detour path around another field, by which a walker may reach the bank. Then, one bright Wednesday in September, along comes this busybody from the Ramblers' Association to tell him that he is breaking the law, and that it is his turnips, not our boots, which are doing the encroaching. Worst of all, the Rambler is right.

There is indeed a diversion, but it is easy to go astray between the drainage ditches and the built-up river bank by which these wetlands were reclaimed for farming 200 years ago. Besides, until the diversion order has been confirmed by the local authority — even this can be a lengthy process if objectors manage to force a public enquiry — walkers are not obliged to take it.

Let us forget about the details of Lydiate for a moment, and think of the points it raises. There are literally thousands of similar encounters taking place every summer in the British countryside; they may often descend into petty duellings among some half-remembered small print, or even into open abuse. The point is that the two have different expectations of the countryside and, as often as not, rather irreconcilable visions of the world.

To the farmer, the stowaway walker well-versed in his rights (let us call him the Radical Rambler) is anathema — a red flag to a bull. Worse, he is a pedant with no respect for the farm as shop floor, and if he wants to go for a walk, he is blessed with countless options without having to preserve ways whose raison d'être is long gone.

To the Radical Rambler on the other hand, many farmers are cynical law-breakers, secure in the knowledge that prosecutions for alleged offences related to ploughing can only be brought by the highways authority, and not by private individuals.

For much of the R A membership (never again can the organization be confused with the Royal Academy), the subject is inextricably linked with fundamental ideals of individual liberty, expressed in terms of the right to roam.

As such, the movement frequently bears the political echoes of the great access showdowns of the inter-war years, most notably the organized trespass on the grouse moors around Kinder Scout in Derbyshire in 1982.

To describe tomorrow's series of rallies in the same breath as that would be to punish it with mock-heroic, and yet it is a descendant of the same impulse. Today the association is, at 62,000 and growing by 1,000 a year, more populous than it has ever been, and has, in its director Alan Mattingly, one of the most formidable of the younger generation of political players in the outdoors arena.

In 1988 a walk in the countryside is a hot political potato. There are several



Walks in the following areas are planned as part of tomorrow's Forbidden Britain Day:

- 1) Mid-Lancashire. The absence of a bridge across the River Alt (see above) severs a right of way. Starts at 11.30 am at Lydiate village hall, just north of Maghull on the A567.
- 2) Derbyshire Dales. National Trust opposes route along the bank of the River Dove, crossing N T land in Milldale. Starts at 10.30 am at picnic site on Tissington Trail close to A515 and Alsop-en-le-Dale.
- 3) Oxfordshire. Massive ploughing-up and missing stiles in the path network at Oxford. Starts at 10.15 am at Oddington crossroads.
- 4) Bedfordshire. Six-mile walk with Bedfordshire County Council to promote policies which have led to footpath clearance and erection of waymarks. Starts at 10.00 am at the car park, Ampthill Park, Ampthill.
- 5) Gloucestershire. Figure-of-eight walk (five miles in the morning, four in the afternoon) to point out the need for freeing the district's footpaths from obstruction. Starts 10 am and 2.00 pm at Hanslope Church, Hanslope.
- 6) Gloucestershire. Two anti-obstruction walks. One starts at 9.30 am at Winchcombe Library car park. Second starts at 3 pm from layby on A38 at Brockridge Common, three miles north of Tewkesbury.
- 7) Hertfordshire. A 12-miler to persuade Herts County Council to look at 34 paths missing from its definitive map. Starts at 9.45 am at Westmill Lane Icklefield, off the A600, 1.25 miles north of Hitchin.
- 8) Kent. Access denied on some sections of Royal Military Canal bank. Starts at 10.30 am at picnic site on canal north side at West Hythe. Also a walk (with Canterbury councillors) through much-obstructed and barbed wired country- reasons for this, not least the colossal rise of walking as a leisure activity. Different bodies put out different figures based on different criteria, but a consensus is that nearly 10 million people go for a "long walk" (two miles or more), as a deliberate activity at least once a month. At the same time, footpaths have been lost from the face of the land at a rate impossible to record, particularly in the "grain prairie" regions such as East Anglia.

It is estimated that there are in England and Wales some 135,000 miles of pedestrian rights of way. The R A, which admittedly has an axe to grind, argues with a weight of evidence that of these, only a small percentage, roughly a

side. Starts at 10 am by the railway bridge in Shalford Street, Canterbury.

- 9) Lake District. Two walks against "council failure" to reinstate a footbridge across the River Winster. Starts at 11.30 am at Cartmel Fell Church, and 1.00 pm at Witherslack Hall.
- 10) London. A 15-mile walk (with opportunities for shorter ones) to promote better access to the banks of the River Wand and so provide a riverside route from Wandsworth to Croydon. Starts at 9.30 am at Putney Bridge Station.
- 11) Norfolk. A choice of three-, six-, and 12-mile walks to highlight ploughing, planting and ditching blight. Starts at 10.30 am at Long Stratton Leisure Centre, Swan Lane, Long Stratton.
- 12) Lancashire. Forest of Bowland. Some access gained by the R A, but much still denied. Starts at 10.30 am at Langden Beck car park, Trough of Bowland.
- 13) Durham. Effects of modern farming on rights of way. Five miles. Starting at 2.00 pm at Bishopston Church, between Bishop Auckland and Stockton-on-Tees.
- 14) Somerset. Part of the campaign to reinstate paths after ploughing at Abbey Farm Estate, near Yeovil. Meet at 10.30 am, at the information centre, Petters Way car park, Yeovil.
- 15) Suffolk. Inauguration of an 11-mile circular walk from Bury to Ickworth Park. Starts at 11 am at Hardwick Heath car park, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 16) Surrey. Ploughing-up and non-reinstatement. Seven-mile walk starting at 10 am at the car park by the A3 at Thursley.
- 17) North Yorkshire. Scarcity of rights of way leading to Upper Niddedale across the moors from Wharfedale. Meets at 9.30 am at Harrogate Library, then drive to Lofthouse, Upper Niddedale for 10 to 12-mile walk.

quarter, are properly defined and walkable. Of cross-field paths, the figure (only 14 per cent) suggests that the Lydiate Syndrome is widespread. It is thought that when faced with a right of way which appears on the map but not on the ground, almost all walkers, well over 80 per cent, will quite soon abandon the search, usually in bewilderment and frustration. It is a huge irony that at the very time when outdoor leisure is such a growth area, the system of policing the network of access to that part of the world should be in such chaos and contention. ● Ramblers' Association, 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 01-582-6826

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OUTDOOR LEISURE

Shoot to thrill

Clay-pigeon shooting, whether pursued as an Olympic discipline or a social sport that encourages beginners, exerts a strong appeal. David Young examines the nature of this popular addiction

No clay pigeon shooting enthusiast would ever admit publicly that the reason they were first attracted to the sport is because it is a grown-up way of achieving the same satisfaction that a child feels when a stone is thrown through a pane of glass, a sheet of ice is shattered on a garden pond or a china plate is deliberately broken.

The feeling experienced when, for the first time a shotgun is shouldered and pointed towards a flying clay pigeon, the trigger is pulled and the clay shatters into a cloud of dark dust — another thing about clay-pigeon shooting is that beginners always seem to be remarkably successful — is one of sheer delight, and probably one of the reasons why the sport is attracting so many new followers.

There are other reasons, of course. Clay-pigeon shooting, in the form of Trap and Skeet, are two Olympic disciplines and are demanding sports which require a high degree of physical preparation as well as a mental approach which only a few people can achieve.

Bear in mind that the reflexes which took Jackie Stewart to his series of Formula One world championships had earlier been good enough to almost get him into the British Olympic clay-pigeon shooting team for the Tokyo Olympics. He was, in fact offered a place as first reserve and would have probably been in the final team, but turned it down because he knew that his first Formula One contract with BRM was about to be offered.

It is also a social sport at club level and like golf is a sport enjoyed in the open air in pleasant surroundings. It can prepare the game shooter for the season ahead and the skills coached on

the clay-pigeon layout often mean that fewer half-chances are attempted by game shooters and more clean and humane kills are recorded.

Though mostly game shots have a go at clay pigeons, the vast majority of clay-pigeon shooters have no interest in game shooting. They enjoy each other's company and compare their skills, but clay-pigeon shooting is not something that should attract the attention of the anti-blood sports campaigner.

It can be enjoyed by both sexes and it can involve a certain degree of dressing-up. Visit any clay-pigeon shoot and you will see what I mean. The headgear would always be described by the wearer as practical, while the spectator may regard it as eccentric. Ditto the footwear, and as for the shooting vests and jackets.

After all, this is a sport and a pastime and why shouldn't someone spend thousands on a made-to-measure gun and then visit Oxford for their shooting clothes, or buy a mass-produced gun made in a Russian industrial inferno and then dress in designer-shooting kit. The shattered clay pigeon, after all, doesn't know the difference and clay-pigeon shooting is, for most, fun.

However, like golf, clay-pigeon shooting can become addictive and expensive. A perfectly safe and adequate gun can be bought for less than the price of a set of golf clubs, and beginners do not need to spend anything, apart from the costs of their cartridges and the costs of the clay pigeons (they look like black brittle ash-trays and nothing like pigeons, incidentally), if they join a club affiliated to the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association.



A good day for bagging clay-pigeon: The Shooting Box at Great Brickhill, near Milton Keynes supervised by the keen eye of instructor David Duncombe

'Not something to attract anti-blood campaigners'

At such a club they will be able to try the sport under the supervision of a qualified and certified coach while fully covered by CPSA and club insurance policies.

Once hooked the costs can mount. Reckon on 10p every time the trigger is pulled for the costs of cartridges, clays and entry fees, and guns can cost as much as a small family hatchback. It is worth remembering that guns of that quality can be regarded as investments and there is a healthy secondhand market.

Prize money also helps defray the cost for the successful and £1,000 guns often feature as prizes at the bigger shoots.

A more realistic price for a quality double-barrel over-and-under gun, 12-bore normally, but 20 bore for younger shooters are equally effective, would be between £750 and £1,000.

Such a gun could bear a famous name and be well made, but do not expect fine English craftsmanship at that price. Such

guns are mass-produced products from modern computer controlled factories and while "Winchester" may be engraved on the finely polished action-body of the gun, inside the parts will be stamped "Made in Japan."

Most guns for clay-pigeon shooting come from Italy, Belgium and Spain and they are ideally suited for the sport. A clay-pigeon shooter may fire 200 shots in a day and a fine light-weight English gun, hand crafted for carrying across a ploughed field in pursuit of partridge or pheasant and fired 25 times in an afternoon would be unsuitable for such a job.

The shooter's shoulder would soon feel the strain of competition cartridges being fired from such a gun and the over-and-under favoured by the clay shooter is more suited to the sport.

The advice for any beginner is do not buy a gun until you have visited a well run club several times and spoken to people who have been involved in the

sport for years — invariably clay-pigeon shooters are fine ambassadors for their sport and are only too willing to help the beginner.

Each club will also have its favourite gunshop where sound advice will be offered.

In addition the firearms officer at the police station where a potential clay shooter applies for his or her shotgun certificate will be able to advise on gun security equipment.

Guns and cartridges should be locked away securely and there is some merit in following the practice of never keeping any cartridges on the same premises where a gun is kept. Cartridges will be on sale at any shooting ground worth the name.

Quite rightly any sport involving guns is at present under scrutiny and new legislation, tightening the rules on who is entitled to hold a shotgun — they are entirely different from handguns, rifles

and automatic weapons, but nevertheless can be as lethal — is being considered.

Clay-pigeon shooting enthusiasts have made themselves involved in the debate through their clubs and through the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association.

The message, quite clearly to clay-pigeon shooting enthusiasts, is that if they want to continue their sport and claim a legitimate right to hold a shotgun certificate then they will have to do so through properly organized and controlled clubs and at shoots where rules drawn up by people who have experience of the sport are rigidly enforced.

If that is done there is no reason why the sport should not continue to flourish and provide thousands with a safe and enjoyable pastime and, incidentally, Britain with the prospect of welcoming home more Olympic champions.

● The Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, 107 Epping New Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5TQ

Country museums are changing, as Beryl Dixon discovers in Sussex

In the steps of an early villager

The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton in Sussex is unique in South East England. From small beginnings twenty years ago when it was established by a founding group, it has grown to become one of the larger independent museums.

Now a registered charity, it houses, on a 40 acre woodland site, a collection of over 30 historic "vernacular or ordinary buildings" including farms, houses, a school, craft workshops and a market hall, in addition to representing the traditional trades and crafts of the region.

Buildings of historic interest under threat of demolition are rescued, brought to Singleton from neighbouring counties and carefully reconstructed.

The museum does not remove buildings from their original sites unless there is no other solution. The collection is still growing. Twenty buildings are currently in store awaiting re-erection. In the early days the museum relied heavily on volunteers, who still play an important part, but nowadays it is also able to employ a handful of full time craftsmen.

It is very popular with school parties and local families — there is a thriving Friends of the Museum Association, and a Saturday club, (with a waiting list) for



In the heart of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex

children, who take part in activities from cooking to learning to stilt walk from professional entertainers in medieval garb — and it also attracts 165,000 visitors each year.

A tour of the whole site takes approximately three hours, but visitors are thoughtfully provided with a plan giving the full route, and a shorter one for those with less time.

The full tour leads from the introductory exhibition in an 18th century Sussex barn to a Toll Cottage, also from Sussex, brought to the museum after severe damage caused by a lorry. It then follows a path past a schoolhouse, dwellings and from buildings from the 13th to the 19th centuries, and returns through woods — this

bit is not a comfortable walk in wet weather, unless you are appropriately dressed — to the barn.

The second or shorter route concentrates on a series of buildings much closer together, forming a town and village grouping of a 16th century market hall, medieval shop, houses, plumber's and joiner's workshops. It then passes through an area containing a 19th century sawpit, a smithy, stables and a barn, (from where horse-drawn carriages rides may be taken) and by the millpond, a working flour mill and windpump.

Some of the buildings on both routes are empty, and children may become bored unless using an activity book, or are read to from the guide book. Others have various devices to hold the interest.

Walderton House, medieval framed, but rebuilt in the 17th century, has a recorded commentary: the Toll Cottage is furnished and occupied by startlingly life-like figures: the Woodland Exhibition describes the evolution of the local landscape and utilization of woodland: a Hampshire barn contains an exhibition showing methods of water supply to different houses.

There are things to do as well as see, and there is an attractive activities book for children, produced by the education officer, who divides her time between the museum and nearby Goodwood House.

I asked two young visitors, 11-year-old Gregory and his brother Christopher, aged 9,

enthusiastically working a village pump, for their opinion of the museum. They had already been with their school, and had asked to come again.

Christopher liked being able to watch the demonstrations and had particularly enjoyed "the hut with a treadwheel like gerbils have, only bigger" and had had a go on it. Gregory would rather come here than to an amusement park.

"When you've had a ride, it's over, but here you can keep going and go back to things. Their mother, tracked down in the queue for carriage rides, agreed that it gave value for money. "They're at the age of beginning to be interested in history. In some museums you have to follow an organized route, but here they can take their time, and there is plenty of space for them to run around for a while and let off steam."

At £2.20 admission per adult, including parking, and £1.10 for children, with refreshments and carriage rides the only major extras, the museum provides a comparatively cheap day out for the family.

● How to get there: The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Sussex, on the A286, six miles north of Chichester, and six miles south of Midhurst. Nearest stations, Chichester and Haslemere.

Opening hours: 11 am to 6 pm daily until the end of October. From November to March, 11 am to 4 pm Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays only.

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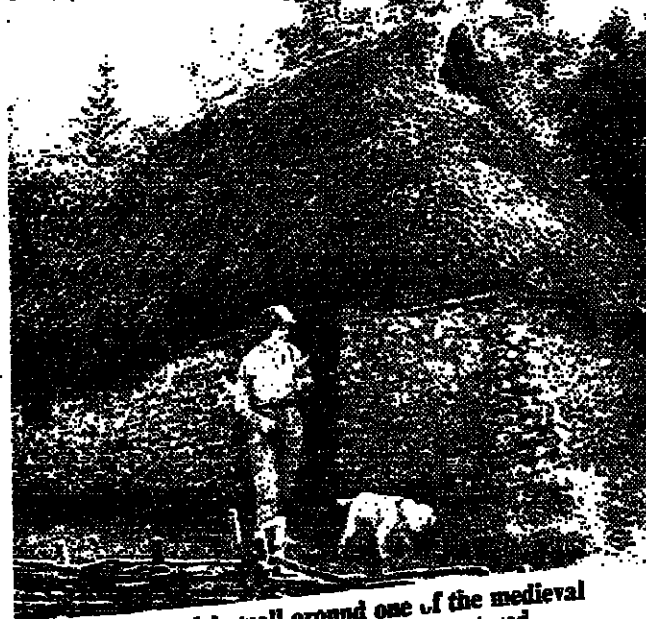
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A touch of the unusual: Morton Mews, left, has a roof terrace and murals. Napier Place, right, is a more traditional three-bedroom version of the mews near Kensington High Street

Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

A black and white photograph showing a group of people standing in a field, possibly a beach or a large open area, with buildings visible in the background. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost solarized appearance. Several figures are visible in the foreground and middle ground, some standing and others possibly sitting or crouching. In the background, there are buildings, including what looks like a large, multi-story structure on the right side. The overall scene suggests a public gathering or a group of people in an open, possibly coastal, environment.

Sport under the sun: Golfers are buying villas and flats to use the course at the Amarilla club

A black and white photograph of a kitchen. In the center is a large, ornate wooden island with a sink and a large mirror above it. The island has multiple drawers and cabinets. To the right, there is a dining table with a chair and a stack of plates. The kitchen has a classic, somewhat rustic feel with wood paneling and a large mirror.

Stylish kitchen savings do grow on trees!

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Shoparound: Window shopping from the comfort of your own home.

PROPERTY

Street-Porter house blues

A brash image, and a home to match . . . Janet Street-Porter, Deyan Sudjic writes, is reviving a town house tradition

On the face of it, nobody could have less in common with the Dukes of Marlborough and Wellington than Janet Street-Porter. But architecturally at least she has followed in their footsteps by commissioning an architect to design a house that is recognizably hers. Built in four shades of brick that look as if they have been blended together in a Magimix, with a shocking blue roof and a flagpole flying the skull and crossbones, it leaps out at unsuspecting passers-by from its Clerkenwell street corner.

It is architecture with the same uncomfortable shock value of the lanky and uncompromising Street-Porter herself. Two intersecting diamonds of steel squares half-screen its facades, while the windows, also diamond patterned, have concrete lintels, cast to look like timber logs. But behind the artfully contrived rawness of the facades is an ingenious and, in its planning, sophisticated interior. It provides an appropriate backdrop for Street-Porter's magpie collecting instincts, ranging from Piranesi to contemporary furniture.



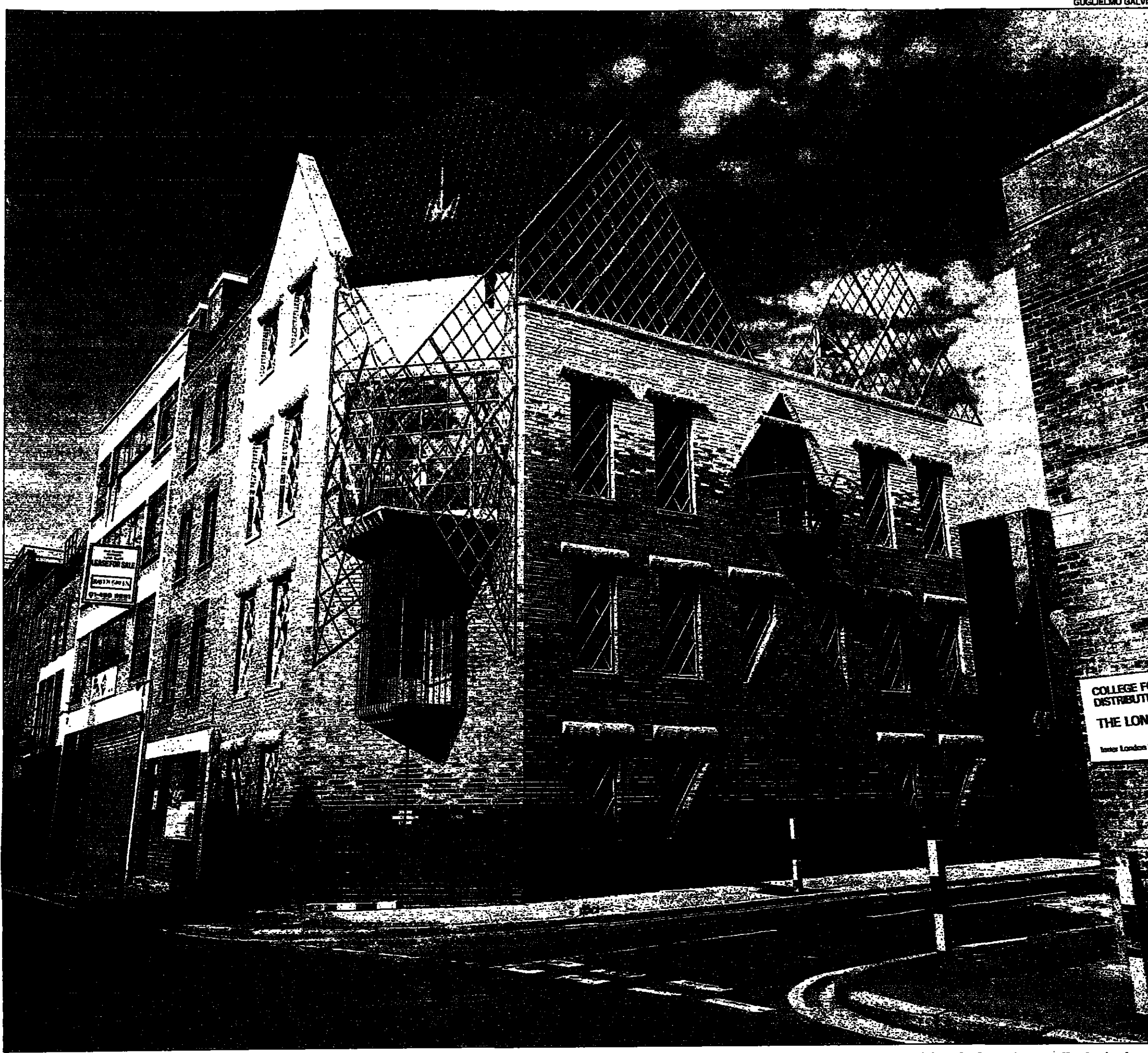
"You didn't need to show me the other two designs," Janet said. "They're awful."

"The thing about Janet," says her architect, Piers Gough, "is that you can build a house for her, and know that it gets better after it's finished. With most clients, you build a house, and you quickly get the photographers in before they ruin it."

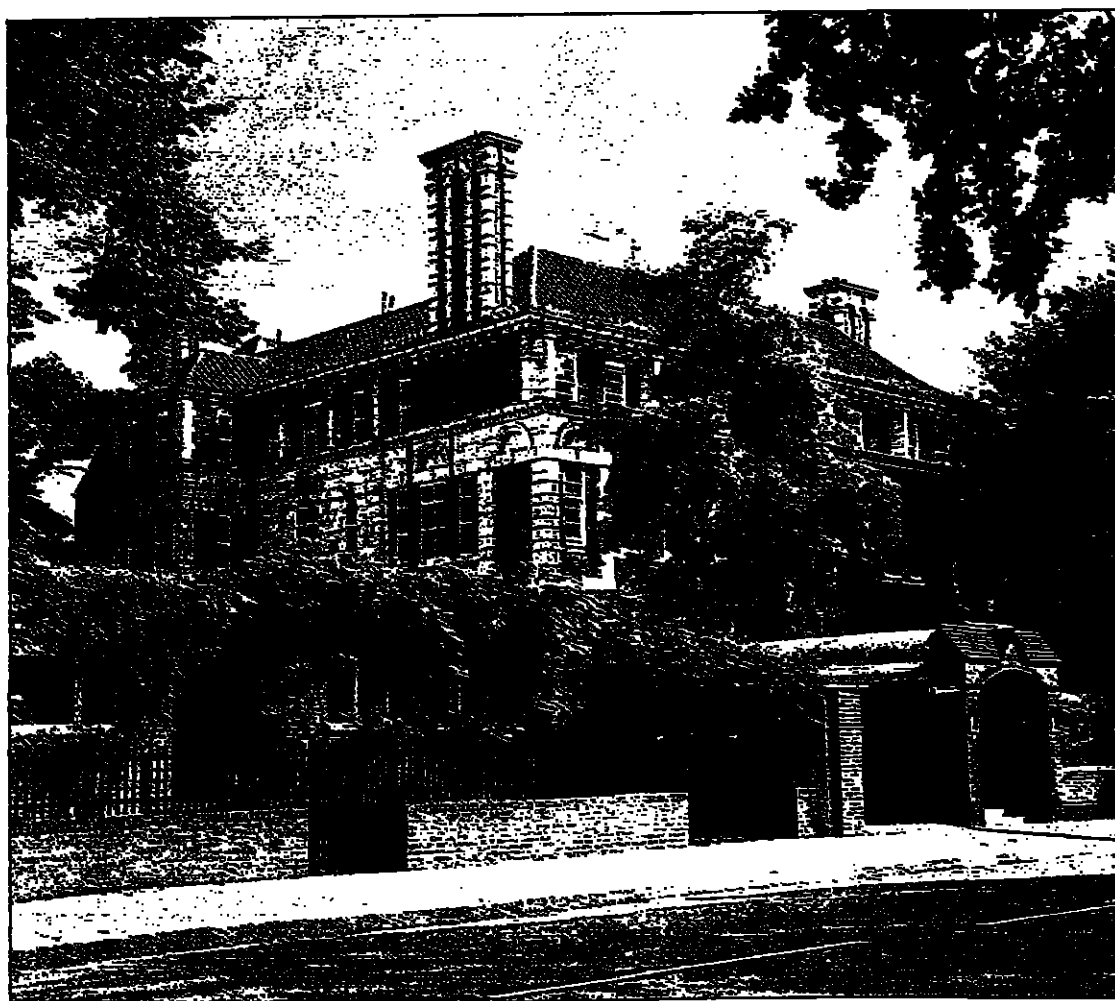
Too rich and anarchic for some tastes, it would be a mistake to write it off as simply frivolous or facetious. Gough has flamboyantly mixed his architectural metaphors. He has taken a pirate castle and crossed it with a suburban villa to produce a building which demonstrates a degree of sheer bloody-mindedness, and is none for worse for it. The way in which materials collide together is blunt, not to say crude, a fact that stems partly from a restricted budget — less than £100,000 — and partly from Gough's use of builders to work on the house in the way that a painter would tackle a canvas, considering every brush stroke, nut, bolt and junction as an aesthetic as well as a functional decision.

Islington's planners believed they had a duty to protect the delicate sensibilities of their ratepayers by vetoing the blue roof, an act of aesthetic censorship that their councillors, encouragingly, overturned. They took the view that using the planning system as a kind of nanny is never going to produce buildings of quality.

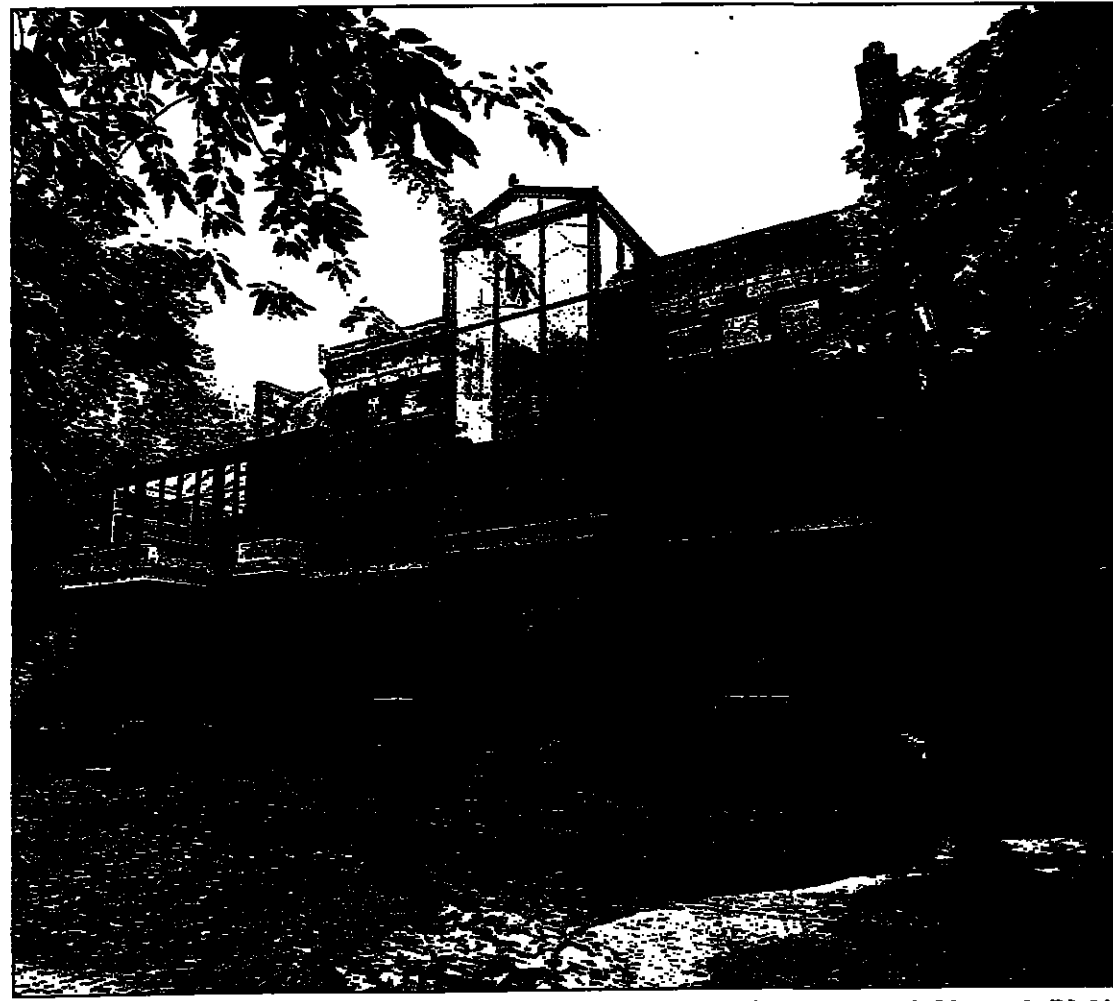
The idea that the great and the good, or even just the plain old wealthy, should live in homes designed and built for them like a Savile Row suit is an old tradition in Britain. But in the present anaemic climate it has all but died out, a fact which is at least partly to blame for the low ebb of



Vision of the Eighties: Piers Gough's Clerkenwell pirate castle, designed for Janet Street-Porter. Behind the deliberate rawness of the facades is a sophisticated interior, providing a backdrop for her collecting instincts



From the turn of the century: Sir Ernest Debenham, department store magnate, commissioned Halsey Ricardo to design his Kensington house. Its vivid green and blue tiles would probably appeal modern planners



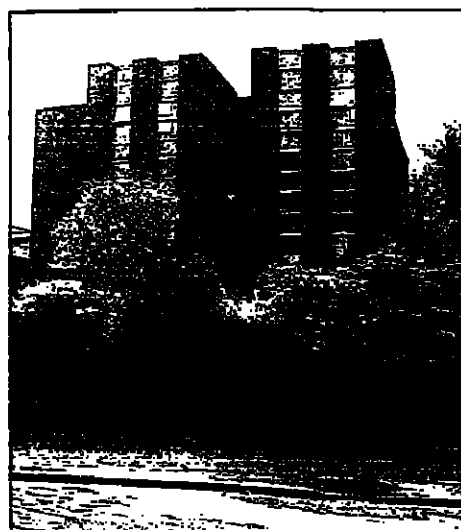
From the 1870s: Lord Leighton, fashionable Victorian painter, commissioned George Aitchison to build this mixture of Italian villa and Arab hall in Holland Park. The back door was for models, the front for clients

contemporary architecture. When opinion-formers show no interest in playing their part in shaping the urban landscape, how can they complain at the banality of so much cynical new development?

A grateful nation commissioned Christopher Wren to design a house in Pall Mall for the Duke of Marlborough. The Duke of Wellington engaged the Wyatts to remodel Apsley House for him, as a public expression of his victories. Mrs Thatcher, on the other hand, opted to buy (and then to sell) an anonymous piece of illiterate neo-Georgian builder's vernacular in Dulwich, neatly demonstrating how impoverished the art of architectural patronage has become.

Pop stars move to Weybridge, and ranch-style suburbia: bankers and tycoons buy up Wiltshire rectories; even Charles Saatchi, a patron of art on a spectacular scale, moves his offices into a crassly derivative piece of post-modernism in Berkeley Square, leaving London to the mercies of anonymous developers.

Recent individual architectural landmarks are rare. From the Sixties, London has the house that James Gowan designed for the Schreiber family in Hampstead. With its sullen grey brick, and elevations that make it look like a municipal housing estate, it is hard to love. More recently there is Charles Jencks, the architectural critic and the self-styled pope of post-modernism, who bravely commis-



From the Sixties: James Gowan's design (left) for the Schreiber furniture family — grey brick and circular swimming pool. And from the Seventies, Terry Farrell and others used a Victorian villa in Holland Park to emphasize Charles Jencks's post-modernistic theories



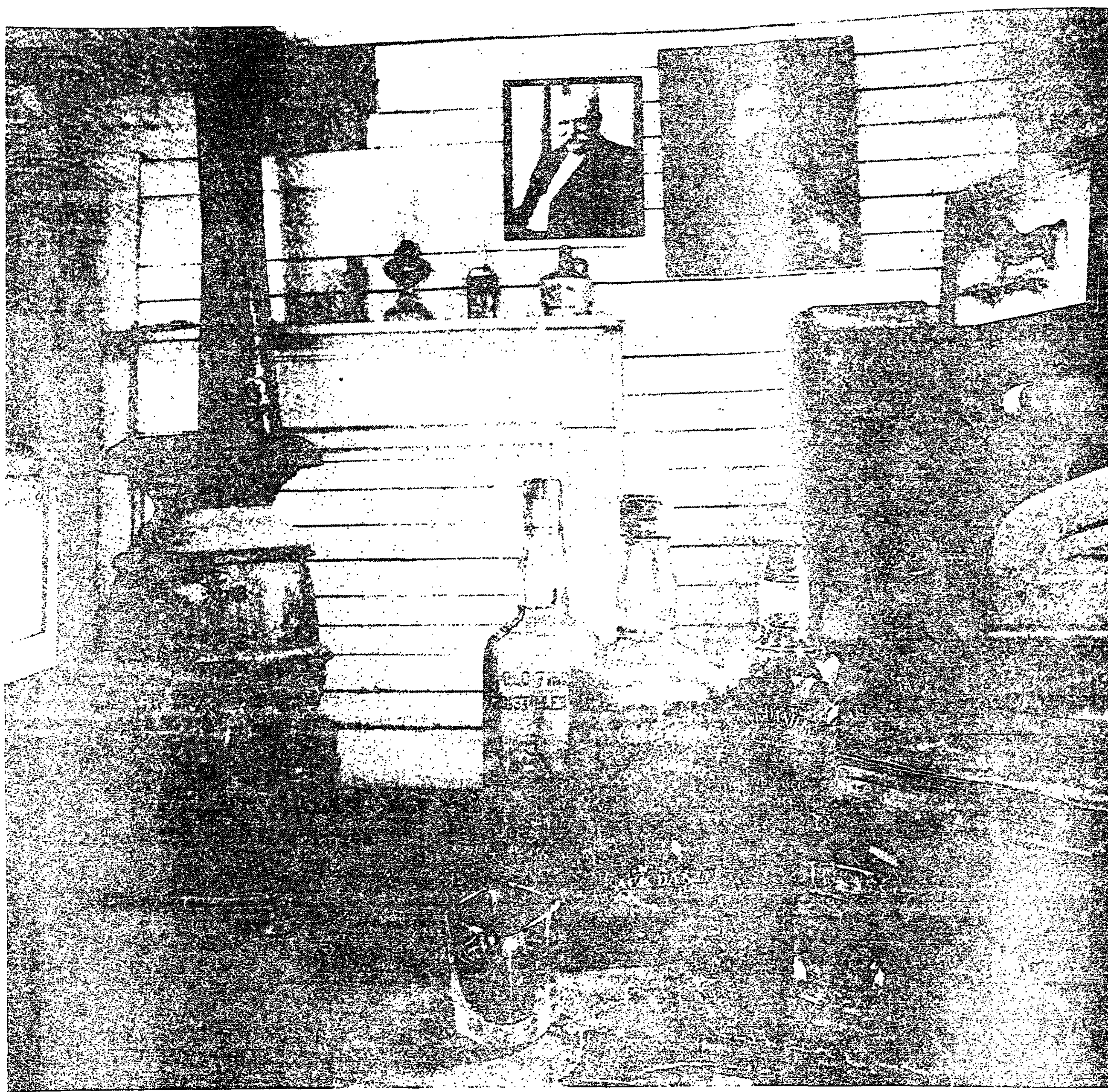
sioned Terry Farrell and a troupe of other architects to turn a stucco Victorian villa in Holland Park into a manifesto for his writings.

It requires real commitment and nerve to live in a house like Street-Porter's, which is more than can be said about acquiring a house from an estate agent, a transaction that demands all the courage of ordering a central heating system. Sir Ernest Debenham showed the same nerve when he commissioned Halsey Ricardo to design his Kensington house at the turn of the century, and used green and blue tiles of a vividness that would have appalled the current generation of Islington planners; so did Lord Leighton, who built himself a Moorish fantasy palace in

Holland Park in the 1870s.

There are drawbacks to being so conspicuous, as Street-Porter has already discovered. "She could have lived in a box, but it wouldn't be Janet," says Gough. "You might ask why dye her hair red if she doesn't want to be recognized. It's not showing off. She's asking for it in a way, but it's like an obligation for her to do what she believes in, and she is ready to live with the awkward consequences of that degree of conspicuousness."

"I did three designs for the house, and showed Janet all of them; luckily she chose the one I liked best. 'You didn't need to show me the others,' she said. 'They're awful. What would she have said if I'd only done the other two?'"



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